

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
March 9, 2021**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

**PRESENT**

Donnie Linkous, Mayor  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember  
Cathy Payne, Councilmember  
Anglis Trigg, Jr Councilmember  
Rick Holman, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney  
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk  
Billie Roberts, Comm. Dev. Coordinator  
James Hampton, Treasurer/Transit Dir.  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
Tara White, Receptionist  
Kris Williams, Zoning Administrator  
7 members of public

**ABSENT**

Ron Holt, Vice Mayor

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

***Special Presentation: New Website – Billie Roberts***

Mrs. Roberts stated that the whole objective of this presentation was to go over what was happening and make sure everyone understood the process, and to give the opportunity for council to tell her if there was anything they had to have on this website. She stated there may have been things on the site that they could not see and needed to be added and we paid for functionality and design and they had taken everything that was on the old site and added it to the new one but it would take time to add additional content. She stated they had to focus on color and branding which included blue and green to go along with the Bluefield name and carried through with downtown features that were poles, flowers in spring, and that was why they saw the blues and greens that when you clicked on it you saw that it all went together really well. She stated that if anyone had any questions or comments to just jump in at any time and as far as the layout went they had gone through the process of different layouts and compared to other websites and this was the best. She stated that what she liked the best was that she did not have to scroll over and just go up and down with each different spot that it was very user friendly.

Mrs. Payne stated yes it was.

Mr. Presley stated he noticed how user friendly it was.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they had to determine if they wanted a modern, traditional, or combination look and they decided to go with the modern look which went along with our design. She stated that they were no longer scrolling pages and people used to say they did not want to scroll but that was not the case now and they had come up with homepage elements that included complete images with our tagline. She stated they looked at images and there were no good quality images and they did not have any good headshots of everyone and had never had any taken.

Mr. Presley stated that they could check with some local photographers to do some.

Mrs. Roberts stated she agreed and would check into it and would need a budget for that and they were looking at \$2000 for a handful of quality photos. She stated that she wanted to know what popped out to council when they looked at the website.

Mr. Presley stated that he had a picture of downtown that might be usable and was high quality.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they needed photos like the ones she was showing and showed what the town looked like. She stated they could contact local photographers to look into getting headshots and photos of the town.

Mr. Presley stated that they could get some drone shots and over head shots and asked if we would need to get photos of every neighborhood.

Mrs. Roberts stated she did not know if that would be needed but we could get some direct shots and look for money to get some great photos.

Mrs. Payne stated she saw a great photo someone took of Jack Asbury Square and maybe we could get some of the churches as well.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes to all that.

Mrs. Payne stated that we needed to get shots of Graham High School and Graham Middle School.

Mayor Linkous stated Bluefield College too.

Mr. Presley asked if there was a promotional video.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes there was the capability of imbedding that into the website.

Mr. Bailey stated that we could constantly update the photos as needed.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes and training had been scheduled for Friday and next Friday with two 90 min sessions that would train the trainer. She stated it would teach how to do or make changes on the webpage and teach about content and photos. She stated that we needed to decide if each department would be responsible or if a delegated person would do the updating and if no

one was delegated and she had to take care of it then she would need a part time person to help with that.

Mrs. Payne asked if they thought the department heads would be able to keep up.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she was not sure.

Mr. Presley stated their stuff was going to be too much.

Mrs. Roberts stated she just did not know and this was why it needed to be discussed and they have never focused on the website before that it was never a priority. She stated the older one was used to put notes on for public knowledge and in transitioning we would need to use our website and social media to the best of our ability so we had to figure out a process. She stated part of that was figuring out who was going to maintain it whether it would be the department heads or a designated person and how often it needed to be updated.

Mr. Presley stated he did not think the department heads should have to but we needed to focus on bill pay and to be able to just click and pay. He stated that ours was outdated and most people wanted to know information like when their trash would be picked up, etc.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she thought we had done an ok job making sure information was on there before but we needed other things such as a calendar that we had never updated.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would like to know where these items would be located on the new website and we needed to show dates like when trash would be moved to a different day.

Mrs. Roberts stated that there was a place to put a code word in and it would show up then they could scroll down to go on online bill pay. She stated it had glitches and was being worked on for the taxes and water bills. She stated they were working with Mr. Williams for building and zoning to be able to get permits online and would be able to apply for a business license online.

Mr. Presley stated people asked him and would ask Mr. Williams for a better description for the zoning section and that would save them a lot of time.

Mrs. Roberts stated that was part of adding that content they talked about.

Mr. Crewe stated that we had a good product and Mrs. Roberts was training for it but before she could move on she would need to know what they all wanted and there were several different options and personnel who could keep it updated. He stated for everyone to think about what they wanted from the system such as tourism, industry, businesses, tax payers and she was correct that there were several different avenues to pay bills for different accounts and it all came down to figuring out what they wanted it to do and who they wanted to do it. He stated she was handing them the product with the help of the experts so that they could walk out of it with a product that they designed.

Mr. Presley stated a lot of this they could build as they went along.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes.

Mr. Crewe stated that there was nothing worse than an outdated website unless it was a new one that was not kept updated.

Mrs. Roberts stated that she wanted to talk about was how long before it would go live, what it would do, and how would it be updated. She stated that they could make it a wonderful marketing tool but they would have to give us the tools to do it.

Mr. Presley stated that he wanted to know what the tools were.

Mr. Holman stated that he reviewed the website thoroughly and as long as they had an interface with the public and took care of them which was the key that they all agreed they were lacking in. He stated that as long as they had the major place holders on there that the content could follow. He stated that she had mentioned cost effectiveness with the exception of online bill pay, and forms, and those were costly items for developers.

Mrs. Crewe stated that it was not as much cost as it was for the Town putting it on there.

Mr. Holman asked if he meant in house calls.

Mr. Crewe stated not just calls but putting pictures, updating it, etc. and that Mrs. Roberts cannot work 24 hours a day so we needed to figure out how to efficiently put it together.

Mrs. Roberts stated it would look great but in six months we did not want to look at it and say this was not good and not kept up from May to August.

Mr. Holman stated that he wanted to know if we had appointed anyone to do that.

Mr. Presley stated he was good at websites and putting them together but wanted to know if pictures were hard to put on.

Mrs. Roberts stated that he was getting too far ahead and into another section.

Mr. Crewe stated that they could do what they wanted as far as a back ground and so on but they had to have someone to say what pictures went where.

Mr. Holman stated that the town manager was usually over the website.

Mr. Crewe stated anyone could put the picture on but how it looked would be a different issue.

Mrs. Roberts asked if they wanted a designated person or wanted the department heads to do this that it was not hard to do.

Mayor Linkous stated he did not know anything about websites but the email that was sent to them made it easy for them to look at it and he found it very easy to use. He stated that he was going to give his opinion about a new employee that had been hired to answer the phones who was very intelligent and qualified to do this. He stated there were many pictures and felt an in house person that was there every day would be the best option for this.

Mr. Crewe stated that Mrs. White's position at this time underutilized her skill set and she had been given more responsibilities since she hit the door and he believed that she had the skills and personality to take on additional things including this.

Mayor Linkous stated that if every department head did their own then there could be too many hands in it. He stated it could lead to chaos but if we had one person it would be more likely to get done.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed continuity and consistency.

Mrs. Roberts asked if they looked at the content.

Mr. Holman stated that what she had so far looked good.

Mrs. Roberts stated that the front page would have what was happening and scrolling down further there would be events and when clicked on it would take them to the full page of events. She stated that under events it would show the most recent first and that it also had an I calendar. She stated that Mayor Linkous had mentioned reporting things and that it could be on the front page but as of now it was hidden and would be up to them if they wanted it on the front page.

Mr. Presley stated that he thought it should be on the front page.

Mr. Bailey asked who would get the messages.

Mr. Crewe stated some of them would not be town issues.

Mr. Bailey agreed that they would get a lot of nonsense and asked who would get the messages.

Mr. Holman suggested either Mr. Crewe or his assistant.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it could go straight to the town manager and have it very detailed.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed to put a blurb in there that allowed the town manager an allotted time to get back to the messenger so that he would have adequate time to message and respond such as a 3-5 day window.

Mr. Bailey stated he would need to know if it was a valid report and asked if there could there be an auto reply.

Mayor Linkous stated that he was concerned that it would be like Facebook and opened up to the general public. He stated that it had worked in the past just to call in and Facebook was too overwhelming for the town manager and did not want to see it becoming a detriment but something good.

Mr. Holman stated that a phone number would still be available and the gate keeper would have the authority that it would not be used as a complaint board but for legitimate issues.

Mrs. Roberts stated it was a time saver and you could direct them to the website or just send it directly to the town manager which avoided several conversations in between.

Mr. Crewe asked if it would only be viewed by the town manager and not be viewed by the public.

Mr. Holman stated it was not a message board and like an email only to be viewed by who it was directly messaged to. He stated that there just needed to be someone to weed out the messages and that person would be up to Mr. Crewe's discretion.

Mr. Crewe stated there needed to be a couple of people to do that in case someone was out.

Mr. Holman stated the emails should go to Mr. Crewe but if they selected a different department it should go to them.

Mrs. Roberts stated that it could be set up to send to specific people.

Mr. Presley asked if there was any way to do a text alert.

Mrs. Roberts stated applications and features, homepage alert and messages, system email notification, and text notifications were not integrated on the home page but they could integrate them and it was a great idea. She stated that once someone put their email or phone number in they would be notified of the news and they could choose what they wanted notifications for.

Mr. Holman asked if they had a banner that went across the home page in case of emergency.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes.

Mr. Crewe stated they wanted to give citizens information as quickly as possible.

Mrs. Roberts stated that they have their searchable document center and town council page with elected officials, and mayor on it.

Mayor Linkous stated that they needed photos of all elected officials that were all the same. He stated that he would like to have photos of all candidates that were running too.

Mr. Bailey asked the attorney if there would be any liability with that.

Mr. Crewe stated as long as it was name and photo they should be ok with no push back but it could run into people trying to track them down.

Mrs. Roberts stated the video portal was much easier now and was nice, neat, and not overwhelming.

Mr. Bailey asked if the minutes were searchable once they were on there.

Mrs. Hernandez stated they were in PDF.

Mr. Bailey asked if they could be searched by date.

Mrs. Roberts stated they kept that on the list and our code was listed under town code.

Mr. Holman asked if it could be searched as a section like a PDF document and made easier.

Mr. Crewe stated it would now be easier to find.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that once our new website was up that Municode would actually put our code on the website. She stated that they sent her another town's website to look at and it was so much easier to maneuver.

Mrs. Roberts stated that there was a searchable document center and she would ask them during her training.

Mr. Holman stated that it would go by date for many and he thought the way they had it was very clean. He asked how far back the content went.

Mr. Crewe stated that it could go back as far as they wanted it to go but should go back 3 years on the website.

Mrs. Roberts stated we did Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram now and people could easily push a button and share from there online. She stated we had a form, photo gallery, quick line button, web calendar, sliding feature bar, language translator, and a citizen's engagement center app. She stated those were all the things we talked about earlier with the online payments and permits, staff productivity, image manager, link checker, menu manager, website content archiving, website content and scheduling, site administration, security features, auto travel auto drop, history log, security mode, unique log in and passwords, and each person could have their own login, mobile device accessibility features, and the website would be ADA compliant, and responsive. She stated that this was the last chance for anything to be added and that training would be Friday.

Mr. Holman stated that she had done a great job with it and it was easy to get around.

Mrs. Roberts stated that the time line to have it up and running would be around 2 weeks. She stated that would be for training and they would take it all and work out the bugs. She stated that all of the content would be added after meeting with all departments and that would take a few months.

Mr. Presley stated for her to take her time and do it right.

Mrs. Payne stated the content was important but not like some of the other things.

Mrs. Roberts stated the forms were the most important.

Mr. Presley stated people are going to love it.

Mayor Linkous asked if the company we hired did all of this and we just told them what to put on the website.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes and the company's name was called Revise.

Mayor Linkous stated they did everything that we just told them what needed to be done and asked if we have a contact if needed later on.

Mrs. Roberts stated we were done with it after training.

Mr. Holman asked if something were broken could we call them to help fix it.

Mrs. Roberts stated yes but there would be a cost and that we paid for a 5 year agreement so in 5 years we would get a new look for free.

Mr. Holman stated he would like to know where we were housing the web site.

Mrs. Roberts stated that Buddy Miller would be taking care of that.

Mr. Holman stated that he would like to know where it was.

Mr. Crewe stated it was either on the server at the treasurer's office or on the server at the police department which was unlikely mainly because there were many restrictions and rules associated with the server at the police department.

Mr. Holman stated for continuity and security he thought we should look into housing it somewhere more secure and a bigger outfit.

Mr. Crewe stated that was what he was attempting to do and right now it was a real hodge podge.

Mr. Holman stated that we did not want to be susceptible.



Mr. Crewe stated that was an issue that had to be handled internally and this company would not do that. He stated to keep in mind that department heads would not have time and would not do what was needed.

Mr. Holman stated that whomever he delegated could keep up with it.

Mr. Crewe stated that once we were finished the company stepped out and then it was up to us.

### **RESUME MEETING**

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

### **INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

James Hampton, Town Treasurer led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA**

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the Agenda.

Councilmember Holman made a motion to approve the agenda. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

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

### **ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 5-0 to approve the agenda and consent agenda.

### **CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

#### ***Special Presentation: Tazewell Chamber of Commerce – Lori Stacy***

Mrs. Stacy stated she had an exciting opportunity for our businesses in Tazewell County and there was a grant opportunity that equaled \$800,000 that would help with rent and mortgage reimbursements. She stated that she wanted to give an update on the Tazewell Chamber of Commerce and that they were growing and excited that in her first year they have added 40 to 50

new members since she had taken over as director and that was during a pandemic. She stated that this year caused her to fast track with programs that let her get to know the businesses, the community, and their needs and the Town of Bluefield had helped greatly with that. She stated the help with the gift certificate program was great and would expire on March 31<sup>st</sup> and she believed round one and two of that program brought in \$29,000 into Tazewell County small businesses. She stated recently they did a chocolate crawl and it was the first of its kind and was very fun. She stated there were punch cards created with official chocolate spots created for people that wanted to participate and would drop in each business that participated to get their card punched and enjoy a chocolate treat. She stated that all who participated was entered into a drawing for the week that lead up to Valentine's Day and it lead to new people going to new businesses. She stated she wanted to thank Rod Gillespie with New York Life, Peter Romano with Ameriprise Financial, and Cornerstone Gift Shop in Bluefield, VA who donated for the gift basket that totaled over \$100 for the drawing of those that participated in the chocolate crawl. She stated that the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce would be offering headshots for business professionals in the area and being promoted as #selfiesarenoprofessional. She stated if anyone would like to get a head shot they would be doing them at the town hall on March 29<sup>th</sup>. She thanked council for allowing them to use the facility and stated that they had partnered with Emily Ball Photography. She stated that the headshots could build your company brand image and boost confidence others had in you and as the world moved towards online and digital it was so important to have these headshots versus a selfie. She stated some things to look forward from the chamber would be promotional offers and a spotlight on young entrepreneurs called 40 under 40 where they would encourage members of the chamber and the community to nominate members of their staff who demonstrated all the desirable qualities that young professionals should possess. She stated that they had started a volunteer program before COVID hit where teenagers from Tazewell County schools could go into small businesses and be educated on how a small business would run and help decide on a future career. She stated a week ago the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce announced the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development Block Grant Program which was an \$800,000 grant that was the Tazewell County Small Business Recovery Assistance Grant and would support the small nonprofit businesses and provided recovery following COVID 19. She stated she wanted to back up and explain that they could have applied for \$500,000 or \$800,000 and Tazewell County was lucky enough to qualify for the larger amount of \$800,000 because they were able to prove they had 30% small businesses that were owned by women or minorities. She stated that this grant would be administered by the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce and would provide a grant up to \$10,000 for small or nonprofit businesses with 20 employees or less and would reimburse them for rent or mortgage and would also reimburse for up to 25% of your home mortgage but those were harder to find. She stated that there was no application fee and they did not need to be a member of the Chamber of Commerce to receive those grants. She stated that March 19 was the deadline and it was a first come first serve basis until the funds were depleted or December 15, 2021. She stated that the grant would not be a quick turnaround and would take till the first of June for checks to go out after being approved. She stated the applications could be found at the Tazewell County Administration office or the Tazewell County Chamber of Commerce,

***Special Presentation: Princeton Community Hospital - Michael Grace***

Mr. Grace stated he appreciated the invitation and introduced Rusty Sarver who was the board of directors' chairman and was the leader behind the decision to affiliate with WVU medicine and asked Mr. Sarver to say a few words.

Mr. Sarver stated that he served at PCH 4 years and was elected chairman 3 years ago and wanted to give a brief history on how they ended up where they were. He stated that BRMC was struggling for quite some time and they had the opportunity to purchase it and when they went into the purchase they had outside council with an accounting firm called Steptoe & Johnson who gave them some advice that in order to keep BRMC open everything had to work out exactly right for that to work out. He stated that physicians were hard to come by and that took a toll, they were unable to keep existing physicians and it went into a downward spiral and when we bought it we intended to keep it open but then COVID hit and blew the plan all to pieces so at that time they decided to best serve the community was to close patient services at BRMC and rehire as many that they could to move to PCH and open more beds. He stated that he heard that if BRMC had stayed open we would have had enough beds but PCH was able to open more there than if they would have kept BRMC open. He stated that they wanted to provide the best healthcare in the region and that included Bluefield VA and several months ago they tried to get new physicians but they were hard to come by. He stated they had seven options and they found WVU medicine to be their best option and after he spoke to Mayor Linkous and told him about a quarterly meeting they had with WVU Medicine and what they could bring to this area would blow your mind. He stated that his wife was a quadriplegic with a spinal cord injury and was treated by PCH in 1989 and she had a C5 and C6 spinal cord injury. He stated that they could not get that treatment there now. He stated that during the meeting Monday with WVU medicine they toured the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute and it would blow their minds what they were doing. He stated that where they sat WVU was the best institution for them.

Mr. Grace stated that they had heard some history and would now look at the future. He stated he just came off a 28-year career at the University of Pittsburg where he was president of Mercy Hospital and stepped down voluntarily. He stated that he was offered his current position and after researching that he decided he did not need to be on sabbatical and helped to bridge this organization into WVU medicine. He stated Mr. Sarver talked about the structure and what WVU did was have a clinical affiliation agreement and for the first 2 years would be a get to know you period and to hire a chief executive officer. He stated that the chief executive officer would go over policy, procedures, meetings, etc. which was what he had done. He stated he wanted to talk about priorities and future plans and for the first two months it had been about stabilizing because we were in the middle of a pandemic and when he first started there were 57 COVID patients and now they had two which was great progress but there was no community testing or vaccines going on and now we had both. He stated they worked to safely open surgeries and allowed visitors in again, and worked on boarding issues and they were able to open 12 more beds. He stated that PCH did not have a current vice president of current affairs or a vice president of operations and those positions were needed to effectively run a hospital and they looked to fill those positions.

He stated they added telemedicine with Ruby Memorial Hospital in Morgantown so they could do things like tele stroke, and tele neurology, and started discussions on improvements with physician recruitment and the way they planned to do that was with faculty from WVU Medicine, and West Virginia University School of Medicine to get Neurologists, neurosurgeons and more cancer doctors. He stated they were working at immediate facility improvements and they needed more beds although they added several they needed more for growth and they looked at the emergency department to expand capabilities. He stated that they just added interventional cardiology abilities on a short term basis with a mobile catheterization lab on site and would be moving towards a permanent facility that would allow them to do things they should be doing for the community. He stated that their future priorities were partnering with WVU Medicine with a strategic plan that included all the communities they served and the top of the list was physician practices there and they still had the emergency department on the Bluefield campus, labs, x-ray, and an oncology department. He stated they needed a comprehensive plan and hoped to see before the 2 year mark the WVU cancer institute for more cancer care, a heart and vascular institute, and the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute. He thanked everyone and stated that he looked forward to partnering with them.

Mayor Linkous asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Holman asked what the diversion rate was. He stated for example, if they had a trauma patient and sent patients out to another location what would that rate be.

Mr. Grace stated that the number was around 60 a month, and the reason for that would be for the best interest of the patient. He stated that no hospital should ever try to provide care they were not capable of providing and they did not have those physicians so they had to stabilize and transfer and what they would like to do was lower that number and the more services they offered that would happen.

Mr. Sarver stated he was well aware of the population they served and they should be able to offer more services but it was cumbersome for most of the population to drive to surrounding areas for care but for many that was a true struggle and they needed to get to where they did not transfer 60 patients out.

Mr. Holman stated that speaking for the community that they understood the tremendous economic challenge impact and the level of care they received today, and it was like that before the merger. He stated with that said those challenges increased greatly as a result of that market and he heard about wait times in the emergency department and the emergency department stayed open here which was helpful but was still a band aid in his opinion. He stated that he felt they were on the right track to better the program and could give information on what their plan was to attain new programs and physicians without having patients transferred out.

Mr. Grace stated that he felt confident they would be able to enhance their cardiac capabilities through partnering with WVU medicine. He stated that they had several meetings planned and today a meeting was planned with a local oncologist to join WVU medical team along with recruiting several doctors actively with specific specialties. He stated they were working

closely with psychiatry services at WVU medical center that they could add to their behavioral health hospital and it was ongoing and would take time. He stated he was used to running hospitals such as this.

Mr. Sarver told a story about a trip he took to a concert in Pikeville and he saw the medical center there and he thought to himself that hospital must be a lot larger than ours. He stated that he was a census geek and went on the website to look up the population and size of the town and medical center and the difference was that they were a regional medical center which was where we were at and wanted to provide that level of care.

Mr. Holman stated not to misinterpret his question but he wanted to know how they planned to bridge that gap for people that lost that service and now had to go farther to receive care and that was from a community standpoint. He stated it was one thing to say they were there and going to provide this service and bridges need to be prepared and built back again and the public needed to have confidence in them again.

Mr. Sarver asked if it bothered them that Princeton Community Hospital was on the sign.

Mr. Holman stated not in the least.

Mr. Sarver stated to some it did and the Mayor stated previously that he visited our hospital.

Mayor Linkous stated that he presumed his wife's surgery had been done by Dr. Greenburg.

Mr. Sarver stated no.

Mayor Linkous stated he did his and did a phenomenal job. He stated unfortunately what the public did not understand were the numbers and we did not have the insurance quota.

Mr. Sarver stated that it all came back to jobs and many people lost jobs that had good salaries and benefits. He stated that when you go to a commercial care that was 9% and we heard hospitals that closed operating on 15% to 18% and we were trying to operate on 9% so we understood the economics of it.

Mayor Linkous asked being partnered with WVU Medical would there be different doctors along with student doctors.

Mr. Grace stated he would answer the first question that they did not have itinerant positions and they would recruit positions that maybe WVU faculty and may not stay here long term. He stated they would like to get to the point that they did have students there and they had a program called ACG immediate accreditation and he did believe they would eventually be a teaching site. He stated that he wanted to answer Councilman Holman's statement and agreed that they needed to build relationships that it was a necessity. He stated they wanted to offer services in this area similar to ones he used in Pittsburg and build back those relationships.

Mr. Sarver stated going back to what the Mayor said and it was not their hospital but all of their hospital.

Mr. Holman stated he would agree with that and there were a lot of economic issues and after the closure there were jobs lost and even though some were hired back and he talked to people that the main problem was health care and there was a lack of confidence there due to misinformation and those bridges needed to be built back up.

Mr. Sarver stated he would agree to that and tried to hire everyone back and did not have an exact number but there would be a net gain in employment by the time they took the hires back from BRMC and partnered with Bluefield State College they would have gained employees for the surrounding area.

Mr. Bailey stated that his question was more for Mr. Grace and asked if WVU operated outside the state of West Virginia.

Mr. Grace stated yes.

Mr. Bailey stated that would mean there may eventually be a need and opportunity to use the surgical center and the adjacent land that was vacant.

Mr. Grace stated yes they had several states that they offered care from.

Mr. Bailey asked if WVU had a tele flight base for patients that needed to be flown out.

Mr. Grace stated no base.

Mr. Bailey stated that Ruby Memorial had a base.

Mr. Grace stated yes.

Mr. Bailey stated that if that all went through and the hospital continued to grow would that be a possibility for a base to be put in.

Mr. Grace stated yes and he received an email last night from the head of helicopter services that WVU Medicine would be a possibility.

Mr. Bailey stated that response time was everything and even though the distance was not that far from Morgantown to Princeton that in the event of a stroke or major cardiac event every second mattered and would be nice to have that access.

Mr. Grace stated it was an excellent suggestion and they would look farther into that.

Mr. Holman asked if the current services were private or contracted out.

Mr. Grace stated they were contracted out.

Mr. Sarver stated he had a helicopter comment and he wanted to get services there that they would not have to use them much.

Mr. Presley stated before this happened Virginia Tech had people coming there and wanted to know if WVU would still work with them.

Mr. Grace stated yes.

Mayor Linkous stated that he wanted them to work with the town manager and combat the negativity together and if they worked together they could fix the problem. He stated he wanted to keep the general public updated and all worked together to get the word out to the public. He stated they would help them in any way and be involved to get the negativity stopped.

Mr. Sarver stated he was biased and loved this area and was born and raised here. He stated he thought the people would love being a part of things and being on board.

Mayor Linkous asked if there were any more questions and thanked them for coming.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

None.

### **NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS**

#### ***Simple Subdivision – (109 Wesley St.)-Kris Williams***

Mr. Williams stated that he had received a simple subdivision preliminary plat from Randall & Martha Cooper, for property located at 109 Wesley Street. He stated that the proposed simple subdivision would establish new lot lines that would better serve the current property owners. He stated that it would be his recommendation to approve the simple subdivision.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the simple subdivision.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the simple subdivision. Mr. Holman seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was 5-0 in favor.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Dave Wohlford of Sedgewood stated he wanted to address again something they discussed earlier and that was if they had to transport a patient to Charlotte or Richmond it would take 25 to 30 minutes so they might as well go to Princeton and rather than spend a ton of money on the surgical center just let them deal with it. He stated that we needed more ambulances and EMT's available in our area so that we were covered and had the ability to help others around Bluefield and not just in Princeton. He stated it would be expensive but nowhere near the expense of rebuilding the Surgical Center. He stated that back in 1987 they built a cauterization lab and there needed to be something like that in Princeton. He stated we needed the transport and availability and he knew a lady that fell and they could not get to her and she died and we do not want that to happen anymore.

Mayor Linkous asked if there were any other citizen's comments.

There were none.

### **POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT**

None

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT & ATTORNEY'S REPORT**

Mr. Crewe stated that most of them knew we were trying to work with tourism and restaurants. He stated that he wanted Mrs. Roberts to speak about that.

Mrs. Roberts stated that this was the first time that the Community Development Departments got together with Tazewell County and came up with a program to support our local restaurants and everyone did a great job with that. She stated that they did not include franchises and stuck to mom and pop places. She stated that with the town and in combination with Tazewell County they bought \$100 of gift cards and did a giveaway. She stated she thought it was a success and they would have some other exciting things that would come up such as the Easter Egg Hunt.

Mr. Crewe stated he had been approached with an event that dealt with 4 Wheelers and ATV's and he would refer to Mr. Presley to explain more about that.

Mr. Presley stated that this board he was talking with wanted to get a sense of what everyone thought about it and was willing to work with them and he did not think we needed to have a formal vote. He stated that they were worried that the new road being built would cause them to lose business and wanted to plan events for ATV's and side by sides. He stated that they wanted us to become a gate way to the Hatfield and McCoy trail partnered with them and Bluefield WV who was already on board. He stated that the foundation was willing to put in the money and buy our police department a brand-new side by side but the issue would be riding side by side through the neighborhoods and he talked to Mr. Crewe about it and we would have to make sure they had certain restrictions and followed certain guidelines and decided whether they could ride on the roads. He stated that Bluefield WV had a lot of roads that connected to trails and there was



not as much riding on the main roads, and would like to have car shows and motorcycle shows and events for kids. He stated that he knew we had the coal show but why could we not have an ATV show that everyone came out once or twice a year and have vendors, etc. He stated that they were willing to work with us and there would be a lot of money involved and he thought about the police end of it and how we could make it work without messing with our system. He stated that he would like to get everyone's input on it since they were willing to work with us. He stated that once this board got an idea of how we felt about the idea they would want to come talk to them and wanted to keep it under wraps for now because they had gotten some backlash from several people and communities.

Mrs. Roberts asked who the foundation was.

Mr. Presley stated that they did not want him to mention it.

Mr. Holman asked what they were looking for.

Mr. Presley stated that they were looking for feedback and wanted to know what everyone felt about it because it could be something that could bring a lot of money in and they were afraid that once that new road was in, they would bypass Bluefield. He stated he did not want 100 side by sides riding through Sedgewood so it was definitely a work in progress.

Mr. Holman asked if this was just during certain events or year-round.

Mr. Presley stated it could be year-round and we would have to talk about that.

Mr. Crewe stated he talked to the chief today and he had some concerns about road worthiness, and they could not have a 4-wheeler on a street that was any more than 25 miles an hour. He stated they would have to have headlights, windshield wipers and that kind of stuff and it probably would not qualify and having 4-wheelers on the street they would receive backlash from the citizens but having said all that it could be a way of making money from out-of-town people. He stated that he had a lot of reservations about it but did not see a reason that they could not talk to them and explore it with more detailed information.

Mr. Presley stated that we had the Mountain Fest, and we could bus people in to there and the City Park could be used and that was split between Bluefield WV and VA. He stated that when they came in at night, we could be the place that they stayed and enjoyed the evening stuff while they were not on the trails.

Mr. Holman stated to forgive him but where was the nearest trail.

Mr. Presley stated Pocahontas that there was land past Bluefield State off 52 and people rode on 52 all the time and they were trying to get them off their main roads too but they wanted them to be out and enjoy the night life and they wanted Bluefield VA to benefit from it too. He stated that there was a lot involved.

Mr. Crewe stated that his concern even with a golf cart was there were specific laws and could not go over 60 miles an hour, but a lot of those 4-wheelers could and there was a horsepower limit and liability with being on a public street and assumed that they worked through all of those issues and then the question would be did we even want them on our streets, what hours and what days.

Mr. Presley stated that there was a lot involved and it would take a while and the boards of both towns did not want to work together before but now seemed to be ready and we were not sure if we could bus people over but could do something.

Mr. Crewe stated that people would be more likely to stay in Princeton because we did not have the motels and they would end up eating in Princeton and not going to our restaurants.

Mr. Presley stated that they could camp which would bring in 100 people and was better than none.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was worth looking into, but he had been trying to fill in the gap and get the two Bluefield's to work closer together and we needed to capitalize on that.

Mr. Presley started that the organization was having a meeting on the 24th and would like to meet then to discuss it.

Mr. Crewe stated his recommendation would be to have someone meet with them and listen but to keep their wallet in their pockets.

Mr. Presley stated that if they all agreed he could meet and talk with them and there would not be any money out of pocket for anyone.

Mr. Crewe stated it did not hurt to talk.

***Cancel March 23<sup>rd</sup> Council Meeting – ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Crewe stated the next council meeting was scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> and that was a special election with the election board taking over the chamber. He stated that it was his recommendation to reschedule that meeting for the 25th. He stated the next problem would be if it was moved to Tuesday, 30th that it was close to Easter.

Mayor Linkous suggested moving it to Monday.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the headshots were that day.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to reschedule the meeting to the following Tuesday.

Mr. Holman made a motion to reschedule the March 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to March 30<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was 5-0 in favor.

***Good Friday Memo – ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Crewe stated that in the past they asked for Good Friday off and wanted to put that on the calendar.

Mayor Linkous stated he thought we needed to put it in the handbook instead of voting year after year and over and over. He stated that next would be Thanksgiving then Christmas and if we were going to do it then just do it but the problem was when other people called in and they had to work but town employees were not.

Mr. Holman suggested that a calendar be done yearly.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to have Good Friday off.

Mr. Presley made a motion to close on Good Friday. Mr. Holman seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to do roll call and report

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Crewe stated that was a good idea. He stated that he had two other requests: one was an artwork piece that was \$175 to give to each student and the other was a request for a donation from the graduation committee with no specific amount only that Charlie Stacy gave \$1500 and Maggie Asbury gave \$1000. He stated that a similar amount was requested.

Mr. Holman asked if that was for project graduation.

Mr. Crewe stated yes and there was a budgeted amount for \$500 and they could do anything or nothing. He stated they did the art work last year but not the other.

Mrs. Payne asked what we did last year.

Mr. Crewe stated we did \$175 last year for the art work.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that is was through a local artist Robert Duff and was a small drawn picture of the school.

Mr. Crewe stated that this was just a portion and he went to businesses to get the remaining amount. He stated that project graduation did not ask last year because that was when COVID hit.

Mr. Presley stated that it went up.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that \$500 was what was budgeted but they did not get the project graduation request last year but did give for the art work.

Mr. Crewe stated that he did not think they had a project graduation last year because of COVID. He stated that the letter stated that the class of 2021 had been a year like no other and more than ever they needed to provide their seniors with a fun-filled, exciting event and that GHS Seniors deserved to celebrate with their fellow classmates in a truly fun and safe environment.

Mr. Bailey stated that to be clear they budgeted \$500.

Mr. Crewe stated yes that they had \$500 in the budget.

Mr. Bailey stated that we did not use it last year and could give double this year.

Mr. Crewe stated that they could do whatever they wanted to do.

Mayor Linkous asked Mr. Trigg if he had any comments.

Mr. Trigg stated that he wanted to talk about the money given and he did not like making a quick decision but would go along with it. He stated he was not against it but felt they should meet and discuss it before they made a decision on it.

Mr. Crewe stated he could not make a recommendation but gave the amount that was requested and the budgeted amount.

Mr. Trigg stated that again he was not against it but did not like making decisions quickly on things. He stated that last week they made a decision to give money which opened them up to other requests and the spending could get out of hand.

Mr. Presley stated that they had a total of \$1000 from two years then deducted the \$175 from both years and gave project graduation the remaining \$650.

Mayor Linkous stated that they needed to take the time to think and discuss the giving and could wait till the next meeting for that decision.

Mr. Trigg stated that when they made a quick decision like that then the town manager had to find the funds and it just seemed better to take time to think about the decision.

Mr. Linkous asked if they could wait till the next meeting to finalize the decision and to know where the funds would be taken from.

Mr. Holman stated that there would not be any discussion because it was already allotted in the budget.

Mayor Linkous suggested they wait to make the decision until the next meeting.

Mr. Crewe stated that there was a Rehabilitation Matching Grant program that was for exterior improvements and it was up to \$500 of free money that would improve the exterior buildings in town. He stated that we had the new truck last meeting and the other arrived and both were working well. He stated that the property they purchased a month ago had been purchased and was being recorded and there were a few who were interested in purchasing it. He stated that there were several other properties that needed to be sold that the town had. He stated he was continuing to work on the budget and had several things to discuss which was why he wanted to reschedule that March meeting and gave time to discuss those things. He stated he met with 2 department heads and there was a need for hiring part time help for summer and budgeting accordingly and lifeguards were needed for both pools, grass help, and grounds help and the rumor was minimum wage was going up in May but he thought there would be an exception for part time help. He stated the next subject was the renovations needed at Fincastle and that was still on the move. He stated that they budgeted all renovations for the golf course except an aerator. He stated his recommendation would be to allow them to spend \$5,400 on an aerator. He stated the other news was good but expensive and the pool testing came back better than they thought it would but there were some repairs needed and the short version was Fincastle needed \$225,000 to finish repairs on the pool and National pools had an estimate of \$150,000 to fix their part and that did not include everything like skimmers which they hoped they could chisel the concrete part on the side and fix what was there and put it back but they would not know until they were in there. He stated once they were in the pool they may have to spend more depending on the severity of what was there. He stated the rest of the money asked for was for the deck, and cover that was dilapidated and needed major repairs and the restrooms and the total amount of \$235,000 would cover all expenses and that included the fountain. He stated it was time sensitive and they needed to get started immediately to get the pool open by June and recommended that they approve the amount of \$235,000 to be given to Fincastle for the fountain and pool.

Mr. Bailey stated he thought they had approximately \$75,000 left.

Mr. Crewe stated they did have \$75,000 but they were not sure if the amount of \$235,000 would cover everything and would not know until they were in there and that was why he recommended that amount. He stated all tests came out ok and the pressure test that they were worried about came out good and that was the ones they were worried about.

Mayor Linkous stated that what they were saying was worst case scenario if they spent the whole amount but if not money would come back.

Mr. Crewe stated that they just would not know until they were in there to know an exact amount.

Mr. Holman stated he understood that they would have to get into it to get it figured out but was there no preliminary to say that they were either going to do it or not.

Mr. Crewe stated yes and that information would be a long answer and was on his desk and he did not bring it down but there was an 8 page summary that explained the repairs but it would have to have a contingency because they did not know an exact amount.

Mayor Linkous stated that they needed pool furniture as well and the question would be if they were going to do it and once it was up and running it would make a turn and he did not know if it would make a lot of money but it was a recreational thing and had a ton of people on board.

Mr. Crewe stated that they had a kiddie pool that they were replacing with a mushroom and wading splash pool for the kids.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would like to know if there was a way to break it down and was there a breakdown in that 8 page document.

Mr. Crewe stated no and that the only thing they had done so far was the pressure testing.

Mr. Bailey asked what the length of validity on the quote was.

Mr. Crewe stated that he thought it was 2 months and they were ready to start any time.

Mayor Linkous stated the longer they waited the longer the start time would be for opening and they would lose a month of revenue. He stated that he thought they should fix the pool.

Mr. Crewe stated it would be a first class pool.

Mr. Holman asked if we only had one estimate.

Mr. Crew stated that was correct because there was only one company around that would do it and was familiar with it.

Mrs. Payne stated she thought they should go ahead and do it since they had already invested in it and hopefully they could bring back swim teams, parties and food from the club house.

Mayor Linkous stated that this was the big picture.

Mr. Crewe stated that when it was bought it was not in first class condition.

Mrs. Payne stated that they spoke about these tournaments and that maybe wives would come and bring in business.

Mr. Holman asked if this money was in the budget.

Mr. Crewe stated yes.

Mr. Holman stated he knew this purchase was made some time ago and he was concerned where the money was going to come from.

Mr. Crewe stated Mr. Hampton could answer better than he could and there was not a specific line that said Fincastle budget but there would be money there in different categories.

Mr. Holman stated that he was interested a little more on where we could pull the money from.

Mr. Hampton stated he would have to look over the budget and see.

Mr. Trigg stated this was one of those items he was talking about that they needed to take a look at and tell them what was going on then make a decision at their next meeting.

Mr. Holman stated he did not say he did not want to do it but would like to have a clearer financial picture.

Mr. Crewe stated that the default position on the LGIP was 1.7 million.

Mr. Holman asked if there were any other surpluses for the money other than the LGIP.

Mr. Crewe stated not to the extent of \$235,000.

Mayor Linkous stated that Mr. O'Neal was confident in these people and so was Anthony and they needed to move forward but if they waited 2 weeks it would be the end of June and his personal opinion would be to allow Mr. Crewe to spend the money and bring it back to them.

Mr. Bailey stated he was one of the biggest supporters of Fincastle but if they could not agree to give seniors \$1000 that was budgeted to not go out and drink and drive then how could they decide on this that quickly and he would not be ok with voting on it tonight.

Mr. Crewe stated that he did not make a recommendation on the school because we did not own the school but we did own the pool. He stated that time was sensitive and it would not get any cheaper only more expensive and they could either fix or open the pool or do not open the pool. He stated that the restaurant had made \$30,000 and we would not get money back investing in project graduation aside than the future of the kids but you would get money back from the pool investment but it was entirely up to them.

Mr. Trigg stated he was all for it and that it needed to be done but they also needed to discuss it and come back to it in a week or so to finish what they started.

Mr. Holman stated he agreed with Mr. Trigg completely and whether they voted right now or not he would like to see the bigger financial picture to be able to vote properly.

Mr. Presley asked if they could recess the meeting and come back Thursday but he was with the other guys and defiantly thought they should fix it.

Mr. Holman stated that he was not saying they did not need to invest the money but he wanted to take a closer look at the budget and if it was all coming out of LGIP that was one thing and if he was able to offset those costs by pulling from different funds that he would be interested to see from where.

Mr. Crewe stated that it would all come there.

Mayor Linkous stated he felt they should let Mr. Hampton and Mr. Crewe handle it and come back with the information after it was spent.

Mr. Holman asked if we had the ability to transfer like that from the LGIP.

Mr. Crewe stated yes.

Mr. Trigg stated we should get it done.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve \$235,000 for Fincastle pool repairs.

Mrs. Payne made a motion to approve \$235,000 for the Fincastle pool repairs. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion.

Mr. Presley asked the opinion of Mr. Hampton.

Mr. Hampton stated he felt that it should be done and he would recommend moving forward with it.

Mr. Holman stated he understood the expediency but did not understand why it needed to be tonight or for them to take their time to get more information.

Mr. Crewe stated that they needed to open the pool as soon as possible and tomorrow he could email and show them more details as to where the money would be pulled from and would not take it from LGIP unless it was necessary.

Mr. Holman stated he would rather proceed with taking as little out of LGIP as possible. He responded to the Mayors response that they could approve taking it out of the LGIP but would rather know more specifically where the money would be pulled from.



Mr. Crewe stated it would take a month or more to do that work and the check would have to be written.

Mr. Holman asked James how long it would take to get the information needed to show them where the money was coming from.

Mr. Hampton stated not long.

Mr. Crewe stated they could finish it tomorrow.

Mr. Hampton stated yes.

Mr. Crewe stated he and Mr. Hampton had analyzed the budget line for line over the last few days and there were funds but that it was their choice from there.

Mr. Holman asked if this would be at the expense of other projects or were these funds we already had.

Mr. Crewe stated it would probably stop something in the future that they had not used.

Mr. Holman stated that this brought him back to his comments before that he would like to know more in depth about the finances and what it was.

Mr. Crewe stated he would like to do as little damage as possible and there were a lot of line items that they were not using or had not used in several years.

Mr. Holman stated that he wanted to make sure they were doing their due diligence for the tax payers as well.

Mr. Bailey stated he was 100% in favor to do the project but was not in favor of voting that night.

Mr. Presley stated he had a question and everyone needed to be on the same page and wanted to see the finances too.

Mr. Crewe stated he could get the pages right now from upstairs.

Mayor Linkous stated if the board was going to do it then what difference did it make whether they saw the reports if it did not change the outcome of the decision.

Mr. Holman stated it could change his vote absolutely and he felt that as an elected official it was his duty to get all the information that it did affect his vote.

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

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it failed 3-2.

Mr. Presley stated that he would like to make a motion to recess the meeting and return tomorrow at 4:30 p.m. to discuss the Fincastle renovations. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was 5-0 in favor.

Mr. Crewe stated he had one last thing that Fincastle was trying to make money and wanted to spend \$1,300 to put up a sign at Bowen Field and if they did it soon they would be able to get center field and wanted to have a giveaway with a free drink attached to the ticket stub people bought from the games. He stated this was a way to get people into the restaurant and they would purchase more. He stated that for \$200 they could give away prizes even a dinner and for \$700 they could sponsor the mascot and the winner would get a photo with him. He stated that the mascot would not have a logo but we would receive announcements mentioning the Town of Bluefield as the mascot went through the crowd. He stated that the free items would be a minimal cost to Fincastle but all of this would be a way to get Fincastle and The Town of Bluefield's name out there. He stated his recommendation would be to authorize Fincastle to spend \$2,260 that they do not have in their budget because of restaurant expense.

Mr. Presley made the motion to approve Fincastle spending \$2,260 for advertising. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion

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

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| Councilmember Bailey:  | Yes    |
| Councilmember Holman:  | Yes    |
| Vice-Mayor Holt:       | Absent |
| Councilmember Presley: | Yes    |

Councilmember Payne: Yes  
Councilmember Trigg: Yes  
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Mrs. Hernandez stated it was 5-0 in favor.

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for the flowers, and cards from his brother's funeral. He stated there was a sidewalk on College Dr. in town that a lot of snow fell on during the past snowstorms and there were a lot of people that were about to get hit because they could not get to the side walk. He stated there was also a big bush by BB&T and when people tried to pull out they would almost get hit.

Mrs. Payne stated she really did not have anything but did want to add that the bush Mr. Trigg referred to was a problem that needed to be addressed because she was almost hit there.

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Holman stated that he wanted to address the Mayor and Council and he understood the expediency and knew it was purchased in disrepair. He stated that he was not opposed to the repair but wanted to get more information.

Mr. Presley stated that he wanted to address a question and statement by Mr. Wohlford about ambulance services and the problem was they got calls from different areas and could not abandon that call to get to another call and they were overwhelmed. He stated that was a big problem, the website was wonderful and he wanted to say that he appreciated everyone for coming.

### **RECESS**

Mayor Linkous recessed the meeting.

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D.S. Linkous, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk