

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
May 23, 2023**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023 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
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Rick Holman, Vice-Mayor
Lee Riffe, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

James Hampton, Asst. Town Mgr/Treasurer/Transit Dir
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Alan McGraw, Interim Attorney
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police
Lori Stacy, Communications Director
Nathaniel Mitchem, Zoning Admin/Prop. Maintenance
Don Scott, Planning Commission Secretary
6 Members of Public

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

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

CONSENT AGENDA

An unbudgeted BVLL Donation Request was added to the agenda.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the consent agenda with addition. Vice-Mayor Holman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

FINANCIALS

April Monthly Budget Reports, ROLL CALL VOTE

Mr. Hampton went over the April Financials.

Mr. Holman made a motion to approve the April Financials. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

CITIZEN REQUESTS AND SPECIAL PRESENTATION

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS & REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS & REPORTS

USDA Purchase SRT Police Vehicle Update – Lori Stacy

Mrs. Stacy presented an update to council regarding the paperwork for the USDA Purchase of the SRT Police Vehicle. She stated that Mr. Kinzer would open July 1st and would have light sandwiches, doughnuts, etc., that she had submitted the application on April 5th for DHR and hoped to receive an award letter this week, she thanked Lecia Smith for her donation towards this, stated that she had emailed the CPROP grant to council and she was looking to use the \$50k if received on downtown revitalization and would be meeting with Jordan to discuss eligible projects and other things in town that this could be used for. She stated that the Dirty Hat Laundromat had opened and the owner was 26 years old and a full time chip delivery driver, that the downtown sidewalk sale would be on June 3rd along with the 140th Celebration and she was looking for some advertising funds to help promote this event, that Joyce Johnston had contributed \$250 and hoped that the town would also contribute \$250.

Mr. Holman made a motion to approve \$250 in advertising towards this. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Abstained
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes

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

Motion carried 4-0 in favor.

Mrs. Stacy stated that the town had received \$5k in marketing funds from VTC that could be used for Field Fest, Autumn Jamboree and Fincastle. She stated that the town would have to spend \$10k in order to get that \$5k back and we had to reach outside of our local parameters and attach the VTC logo/slogan. She stated that the first Field Fest would be held on June 1st with a Show & Shine Jeep Event, Victor Lawson & Boogie Chillen performing with food vendors. She invited everyone to Wal-Mart's grand re-opening on June 23rd @ 8 a.m. and stated that this was something that the corporate offices had put together and the Mayor and Charlie Stacy would be speaking

Rezoning Hockman Pike/Virginia, ROLL CALL VOTE – Nathaniel Mitchem

Mayor Linkous asked for a vote to approve the rezoning of Hockman Pike as presented during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Hockman Pike rezoning. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Mayor Linkous asked for a vote to approve the rezoning of Virginia Avenue as presented during the Public Hearing.

Mr. Holman made a motion to approve the Virginia Avenue rezoning. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe: Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman: Yes
Councilmember Holt: Yes
Councilmember Presley: Abstained
Councilmember Payne: Yes
Councilmember Trigg: Yes
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez asked for a vote to approve the following budget amendments:

PURPOSE: Security Services Payment GHS

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	<u>\$271,043.31</u>	<u>\$271,123.31</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
		<u>\$271,043.31</u>	<u>\$271,123.31</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-1600	Investigative OT	<u>\$51,050.00</u>	<u>\$51,130.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>
		<u>\$51,050.00</u>	<u>\$51,130.00</u>	<u>\$80.00</u>

PURPOSE: Remainder COVID Safety Supplies

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	<u>\$271,123.31</u>	<u>\$272,454.80</u>	<u>\$1,331.49</u>
		<u>\$271,123.31</u>	<u>\$272,454.80</u>	<u>\$1,331.49</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$44,009.47</u>	<u>\$45,340.96</u>	<u>\$1,331.49</u>
		<u>\$44,009.47</u>	<u>\$45,340.96</u>	<u>\$1,331.49</u>

PURPOSE: Security Services Aramark

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State Law	<u>\$272,454.80</u>	<u>\$273,704.80</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
		<u>\$272,454.80</u>	<u>\$273,704.80</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-1600	Investigative OT	<u>\$51,130.00</u>	<u>\$52,380.00</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>
		<u>\$51,130.00</u>	<u>\$52,380.00</u>	<u>\$1,250.00</u>

PURPOSE: Core Charge Refund-Transit Bus

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9901	Misc Revenue	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,008.03</u>	<u>\$2,008.03</u>
		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$2,008.03</u>	<u>\$2,008.03</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
4816-4285	General Vehicle	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	<u>\$3,008.03</u>	<u>\$2,008.03</u>

Maintenance \$1,000.00 \$3,008.03 \$2,008.03

PURPOSE: Fire Truck Generator

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0100-0509	Prior Year	<u>\$1,955,684.56</u>	<u>\$1,978,018.64</u>	<u>\$22,334.08</u>
	Reserves	<u>\$1,955,684.56</u>	<u>\$1,978,018.64</u>	<u>\$22,334.08</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3220-6007	Repair & Maint.	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$24,834.08</u>	<u>\$22,334.08</u>
	Supply	<u>\$2,500.00</u>	<u>\$24,834.08</u>	<u>\$22,334.08</u>

PURPOSE: Worldwide Equipment Refund

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9914	Refunds	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,105.80</u>	<u>\$5,105.80</u>
	& Rebates	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$25,105.80</u>	<u>\$5,105.80</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
1252-4225	Street Maint	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$40,105.80</u>	<u>\$5,105.80</u>
	Tires, Parts	<u>\$35,000.00</u>	<u>\$40,105.80</u>	<u>\$5,105.80</u>

PURPOSE: VACORP Reimbursement (damages)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0900-0204	Recovered Costs	<u>\$139,420.66</u>	<u>\$144,080.15</u>	<u>\$4,659.49</u>
	& Rebates	<u>\$139,420.66</u>	<u>\$144,080.15</u>	<u>\$4,659.49</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
4120-6014	Other Operating	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$14,659.49</u>	<u>\$4,659.49</u>
	Supplies	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$14,659.49</u>	<u>\$4,659.49</u>

Mr. Holman 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 Riffe: Yes
 Vice-Mayor Holman: Yes
 Councilmember Holt: Yes
 Councilmember Presley: Yes
 Councilmember Payne: Yes
 Councilmember Trigg: Yes
 Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

Unbudgeted Request, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated that the town had received a 30 for 30 request from the Community Foundation of the Virginias, Inc. who was celebrating 30 years of assisting local non-profits. She stated that they were always so gracious to help with grants that the town submitted.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve \$300. Mr. Holt seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Riffe:	Yes
Vice-Mayor Holman:	Yes
Councilmember Holt:	Yes
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Abstained
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 in favor.

Graham Transit Drug Policy, ROLL CALL VOTE – James Hampton

Mr. Hampton stated that the new Graham Transit Drug Policy had to be updated and approved.

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Graham Transit Drug Policy. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

BVLL Unbudgeted Request, ROLL CALL VOTE – Rick Holman

Mr. Holman made a motion to take \$1,900 out of the Recreation Line Item for equipment purchases for a pitching mound for the BVLL who would be hosting a 2023 Major District 11 Tournament. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mr. Riffe asked if this was on top of the two they had already.

Mr. Holman stated yes.

Mrs. Payne asked how many teams.

Mr. Holt stated that it was usually around 14-16.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Motion carried 6-0 in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dave Wohlford, stated that the pool at Sedgewood that had been covered up was not safe that there was glass coming up and it needed to be cleaned up and possibly made into a soccer practice field, that the flag pole needed to be fixed, that half the street lights in Sedgewood were out and that the contractors and subcontractors at Wal-Mart were still not licensed that a stop order should have been issued. He stated that the policy should be done away with or equally enforced across the board. He stated that they needed to determine the hours of the Building Inspector and get him a vehicle.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

Chief Gunter stated that the Police Appreciation Walk headed by Tammy Horn went on in spite of the weather. He thanked her, James and Frank Horn for speaking, that he had an officer who graduated the academy and one retiring this Thursday. He stated that they would be conducting interviews tomorrow.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Upcoming:

Evening Shade (Trish Smith), June 2nd @ 7 p.m.

Town Offices Closed-Memorial Day, May 29th (trash pickup will be on Friday, 26th)

Cole Chevy Mountain Festival, June 2nd -11th.

Mr. Hampton stated that transit staff performed in the Bus Rodeo at the first of the month and competed in a written test, wheelchair loading, inspections and a driving obstacle course with others statewide. He stated that our Mark Davidson won overall and would compete in the national in Oklahoma.

TOWN ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. McGraw stated that Brad Ayers was the only response received for the bridge. He handed out renderings and the next step would be the committee, he stated that they would have to cross the stream which would require permits and he was dealing with the VA Marine Resource Corp now and would be working with DEQ after July 1st. He stated that it was discussed during a previous meeting regarding

vacating an area in Sedgewood and he was still working on who paid for the cost, etc. He stated that there was an older plat that prior council had vacated and sold and the town did not own it.

Mr. Holman asked if the property owners were paying property tax.

Mr. McGraw stated they were paying something and the county treasurer had refunded it back for 3 years (1890 plat). He stated that he had been working with Nathaniel, Desera and Planning Commission on the rezoning.

Mr. Holman asked when the application would be submitted for the bridge.

Mr. McGraw stated shortly and work may be able to commence as long as it was nothing in the creek.

Mayor Linkous asked if the work was not done by July 1st would be the county pull back their money.

Mr. Hampton stated that he did not think so.

Mr. Holt stated that they had already allocated the funds.

Mr. Riffe asked if all of the town's ARPA money had been allocated.

Mr. Hampton stated yes and he had filed the report with the Federal Government.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg stated that he wanted to see the bridge complete and thanked everyone for coming out.

Mrs. Payne stated that she was excited about downtown and wished everyone a wonderful Memorial Day weekend.

Mr. Riffe stated that he had reached out to Andy after he had asked them to move Kim's appointment to January during the re-organizational meeting and asked what they were going to do.

Mr. Presley asked that James look into it to see if they could do that.

Mr. Holman stated that they would deal with it in June.

Mr. Riffe stated that he was looking forward to the 140th Celebration and invited all to attend.

Mr. Holman thanked the Chief for handling a situation.

Mr. Presley thanked Lori for her update and asked Betty Watson when the quilt show would be.

Mrs. Watson stated June 16-17 and quilts would be needed by June 12th.

Mr. Presley thanked staff and asked if the events were posted somewhere.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that they were on the website, Facebook, etc.

Mr. Holt thanked staff for all that they did. He stated that he had a much better appreciation of what staff did after being in Richlands.

Mayor Linkous stated that they would never see this bridge done and asked about the Kinder vacated property.

Mr. McGraw stated that the town did not own the roads.

Mayor Linkous asked if he could do it.

Mr. McGraw asked to occupy it?

Mr. Holman asked about squatting.

Mr. McGraw stated that you could not squat on government property but he could use it if he wanted too and was going to look at it again that after the 1930's the town would own.

Mayor Linkous stated that Martha was retiring Thursday after 25 years and asked that they do something for her and for Chief to look into it and let them know. He stated that he would like to see something planned to honor her, he talked about the flooding issue all over town but that Hickory Hills/Crabapple ditches had never been cleaned out and the easy fix would be to move it to the other side of the street into the big hole. He stated that they were obligated to help because it was getting into their homes. He stated that he had not heard from Andy since his surgery.

Kim and James stated that he had text them and that all went well.

Mayor Linkous stated that they needed to look at purchasing a vehicle for the new manager and have it here when he started.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk

