

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
June 22, 2021**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Donnie Linkous, Mayor
Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Cathy Payne, Councilmember
Rick Holman, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Don Scott, Planning Commission Secretary
4 Members of Public

ABSENT

Shane Gunter, Police Chief

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Don Scott, Planning Commission Member/Retired Minister led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Linkous removed the Resolution for Mike Goins under Citizen Requests & Special Presentations. He asked for a motion to approve the amended agenda and consent agenda.

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

Mr. Holt asked to add an Executive Session regarding personnel. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

CProp Resolution, ROLL CALL VOTE – Trent Crewe

Mr. Crewe stated that this was identical to what they done last year and in order to reapply for the CProp Grant that we had to submit an application by June 30th and this resolution authorized the application to be sent in.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the CProp Resolution.

Mrs. Payne made a motion to approve the CProp Resolution. Mr. Trigg seconded the motion.

Mr. Bailey asked if it had to specify the use of the money or just to receive it.

Mr. Crewe stated that it would be used to complete the HVAC system at Fincastle, pool repairs, furnishings and kitchen equipment. He stated that it was \$50k and was Economic Development to improve quality of life in the community and to create jobs.

Mr. Holman stated that he thought they had already addressed the pool situation and asked if we were going after more money.

Mr. Crewe stated yes that we were applying for all the free money we could get.

Mr. Holman asked what repairs at the pool.

Mr. Crewe stated that the money could be used to pay for the repairs currently being done that were already approved.

Mr. Holman stated that he thought it was something different.

Mr. Crewe stated that there may be some additional stuff.

Mr. Holt asked if they could use it for reimbursement.

Mr. Crewe stated yes that they had only paid a small part but it would not matter which pocket it came out of.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 6-0 in favor.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Dave Wohlford stated that he was aware that they had approved a variance for on frame homes and were now looking at doublewides. He stated that there were zoning laws in place for a reason and this would be doing a disservice to the citizens. He stated that he did not know the reasoning but would get a petition to stop it and also a petition to remove all of council if needed.

Cecil Mitchell stated that the flooding on Virginia Avenue had never been like that before. He stated that he believed the drain was stopped up and also there was a large beaver in it. He stated that the underpass had never been cleaned out either and that it was going to cause a bad wreck from the flooding. He stated that his neighbor Amy Keene had also been flooded as well as two other neighbors and something needed to be done.

Mrs. Payne asked where this was.

Mr. Mitchell stated 317-319 Virginia Avenue near Balls Automotive. He stated that it had never flooded at that end like it had been lately.

Mr. Bailey stated across from Farm Bureau.

Mr. Mitchell stated that they get everything from the West Virginia side.

Mr. Holman asked what her name was again.

She stated Amy Keene.

Mr. Presley stated that all Town drains needed to be cleaned.

Ms. Keene stated that there was mud in the drain in front of her house so it was not draining.

Mr. Presley asked how this could be solved.

Mr. Crewe stated that he was not sure and would have to look into and see if it were a VDOT problem or Town but we did not have the machinery to do it and would have to rent it.

Mr. Bailey asked if those were our right of ways.

Mr. Crewe stated that he would have to look and see.

Mayor Linkous stated that he once lived there and it was our right of ways. He stated that it would be taken under advisement and they would get something started quickly on it.

Mr. Bailey asked if this was the same culvert as the one at Dairy Queen.

Mr. Presley stated that it crossed over at the Farm Bureau.

Mr. Bailey asked if the water come back or was it from the West Virginia side.

Mr. Mitchell stated that it was all the streets including West Virginia.

Ms. Keene stated that the water puddled and stood and it was washing her driveway out because it was not properly draining.

Mayor Linkous stated that the Town Manager would get with Pete to address this tomorrow and to start working on it. He stated that he saw a sanitation truck cleaning out one of those drains.

Mr. Holman stated that they were probably pumping it and he would raise this subject to them during tomorrow's meeting.

Mayor Linkous stated that when it came down the road that there was a lot of stuff in it. He stated that it may not get fixed this week but that they would start looking into it.

Rhonda Buckner agreed that the storm drains needed to be taken care of on Hicks/First Street as well. She stated that she was upset with the guy who recently placed a red sign on a property when the Town's grass was just as bad. She stated that she had talked to the Mayor, Mr. Presley and the Town Manager regarding this and had asked for four years about keeping stuff mowed. She stated that she killed a rat because of the weeds and debris behind her property.

Mayor Linkous stated that he had talked with the Town Manager about both of those streets that we owned on the right and left because of the weeds being so high and also in the different

areas within the Town had the same issue. He stated that he had gave the pictures to the Town Manager who had passed them on to get this issue addressed. He stated that they did cut ours after the guy with the red sign cut his but now it was all in the street. He stated that he had talked to Trent concerning Techni-Turf cutting grass in the Town.

Mr. Bailey stated that we were in violation of our own ordinance.

Mayor Linkous stated yes and that Techni-Turf would be giving us a price. He stated that they were going to do it last year but the Town Manager then never gave the go ahead. He stated that it had to be done because it looked bad when we were putting out red signs when our grass was not cut and we did not want to end up in court. He stated that they would get to the bottom of this issue.

Ms. Buckner stated that several years ago she received a certification of recognition for cleaning up around the town.

Mr. Bailey stated that she had come in every year regarding this issue.

Ms. Buckner stated yes.

Mr. Bailey stated that one year it was regarding an abandoned piece of property.

Mr. Holt stated that it had not been taken care of either and they needed to be more proactive even if they had to hire more staff. He stated that it needed to be addressed because we did not want to be like McDowell County.

Mrs. Payne asked her name again.

She stated Rhonda Buckner 115 First Street.

Mr. Holt stated that they needed to get in a room together soon which was what he had been asking for a while now and come up with an order of precedence. He stated that he knew they could not accomplish it all but that they all needed to sit down soon and come up with a list of goals and this needed to be on the top of that list.

Mayor Linkous stated that this was not a goal but flat common sense and was getting the ear of a lot of people.

Ms. Buckner stated that they would get tired of hearing from her.

Mr. Holt stated that she had always been professional and nice to him.

Ms. Buckner stated that she was beating a dead horse.

Mr. Presley agreed with Mr. Holt that they needed to have a Work Session and suggested having one before the next meeting.

Mr. Holman stated that he was the newest member and asked if we followed a schedule for town maintenance.

Mr. Crewe stated yes but no because Public Works was overwhelmed and got pulled off of cutting grass for different things such as rain, equipment breaks down, etc.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed to find a solution.

Mr. Holt asked how many properties the town owned.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was over 100 not counting right of ways and that most of the problem was the edges of streets.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

VML Annual Conference

Mr. Crewe stated that the VML Annual Conference this year would be held in Leesburg, VA October 3-5 and asked that council let staff know as soon as possible if they would like to attend so that reservations could be made. He stated that they would also be offering it remotely as well. He stated that the reason why Chief and James was not there was they were both attending a training.

He stated to address the comments that it was basically a daily grind of here is last night's or this morning's complaints about Public Works in large being behind. He stated that they knew it had to be done but they were correct in that we were putting up sign violations in yards when our right of ways were not in compliance. He stated that we were citing people for violating an ordinance that we were not in compliance with. He stated that we had town employees doing mowing, a contracted company that mowed town owned property and possibly had an old contract if it still existed with someone else. He stated that he was not receiving any push back from Public Works and was told that they would get to it which was usually 2-3 days later. He stated that it was something they would have to keep after.

Mr. Holman asked how many employees were on the grass crew.

Mr. Crewe stated 8 but that sometimes they were pulled off of grass to do something else.

Mr. Holman asked if he had a list of equipment that was needed.

Mr. Crewe stated that there was no short list and that Pete had not had time to get a list together.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed to look at the magnitude of the problem then look at the needs such as personnel and equipment.

Mr. Crewe stated that it would involve it all.

Mr. Holman stated that they were proactive and bought a new truck for snow removal and needed to do the same for this issue.

Mr. Crewe stated that the drainage and weeds were a part of this because the rain washed out rocks, etc. in the grass which broke the equipment.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed to attack it at the root, look at the drainage, weeds, etc. He stated that it became a public safety/health issue at some point.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was not optional and a lot of it had to be done by the weed eater.

Mr. Holman stated that it could be addressed in the Work Session.

Mr. Holt asked if there were specific issues that they were pulled to other areas for.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was nothing in particular.

Mr. Bailey asked if there was any feral money available for the area in the flood plain.

Mr. Crewe stated that there may be for the culverts and possibly in the ARPA money.

Mr. Bailey asked if the downtown barriers, etc. was because of the severe flooding.

Mayor Linkous stated yes and they may be able to get the Army Corp to put in a machine that pulled out the debris. He stated that it had been noticed by several citizens that Public Works had mowed the area near 460 ten times and that the East End was just as important. He stated that it was embarrassing to see how high it was.

Mr. Holt stated it was the same issue on Franklin and Shenley.

Mayor Linkous stated that the Appalachian Detention Center would send people out to do work.

Mr. Holt stated that they were not letting them do any work right now and were working on getting them the vaccines so they could get out.

Mrs. Payne stated that her mother had them all the time working in Fincastle Estates and at the Sanders House.

Mr. Holt stated that it required a police officer and overtime but the sheriff was getting close to letting them back out to work.

Mrs. Payne asked that he let them know when they could do it again. She asked about community service workers.

Mr. Crewe stated that we had tried 3 different ones and the first two did not show up and the last one showed up a few times then did not come back. He stated that we have had several phone calls lately of people wanting to volunteer so we would work on putting a list together. He stated that the town was not alone that other areas were having this same dilemma including the restaurants who were closing early because they cannot find workers.

Mr. Holman stated that we were dropping the bucket.

Mr. Crewe stated that the town had good hardworking employees with the exception of a few workers comp claims that were minor and took people away for a few hours. He stated that if council had a good way to address it to let him know and that Pete always answered the emails sent to him but that he hoped if it were a new complaint that it went to the top of his list.

He stated that he received a notice for the Perdue Pharma Bankruptcy Class Action Suit and we would have to choose whether or not to stay in or do it independently by July 9th. He stated that he did not know why the town would not want to stay in and that 22 states had objected to the amount being offered. He stated that it would be a significant amount and unless otherwise told he would respond back that the town would stay in.

He stated that within 30 days the town would receive \$2,509,234 which was half of what was allocated under the ARPA. He stated that in another year we would receive the other half and that he and James had participated in several funding seminars. He stated that we had two years to spend it and it had to be incurred expenses or purchases made after March 3, 2021 for infrastructure, pipes in the ground which we had 23-24 miles of lead pipe that could be replaced with this money, 8 water projects that could be included, etc. He stated that we could file these projects and ask if it matched the criteria but that it would have to be accounted for and audited at the end. He stated that he believed we could also use the money for busted up/non-working pipes. He stated that he and Chief were working on getting 20 security cameras to go with the 13 we currently had and they would be wireless internet connectors on a secure network that could not be tapped into, 360 degrees angle and 24 hour service that could look for a specific car, color, etc. within the past 30 days. He stated that the Police Department really liked these cameras and that one would be at the front door. He stated that they had a guest portal attached to each hotspot so that anyone could use it and was also looking for one at Harmony Acres since they could not get

Wi-Fi. He stated to qualify they had to be 100 megabytes per second which was a hard speed to find.

Mr. Holman stated that we would not find that from a wireless provider.

Mr. Crewe stated that we could apply for a waiver for less if we proved that we could not get the higher.

Mr. Holman stated that we had franchise agreements.

Mr. Crewe stated that the camera company had its own franchise which may be better than what we had.

Mr. Holman asked if that was for infrastructure too.

Mr. Crewe stated that we were not looking at that yet but have been offered.

Mr. Bailey asked if each camera would have to have it.

Mr. Crewe stated yes in order to use the ARPA funding.

Mrs. Payne asked the cost.

Mr. Crewe stated the total cost was around \$40k.

Mr. Holt stated that he understood that some recreation could fall under this as well.

Mr. Crewe stated it may that we did not know because the regulations were still coming out but they were focusing on restructuring split families and strong fatherhood programs. He stated that our Recreation Department was bringing back programs this year that they could not do last year.

Mr. Holt stated that they had the ability to do some good in the town but the board needed some seat time to make priorities.

Mr. Crewe stated that was true but they had to make sure it fit within the regulations.

Mr. Holt stated yes that he understood that. He stated that they needed to prioritize as a board representing the town and this was a good opportunity for them to sit down and everyone could get something they wanted for the people.

Mr. Crewe stated yes that they needed to figure out where they wanted to go with it.

Mr. Holt stated that it was a big amount and would make a huge impact.

Mr. Crewe stated that there were other pots of money available.

Mr. Holman asked if any could be used for improvements to existing facilities.

Mr. Crewe stated only COVID related or expenses incurred or replacing something this year that had been lost because of COVID.

Mr. Holt asked if we would be allowed to work with non-profits to help with funding on projects such as 50/50.

Mr. Crewe stated with stipulations and they could not pay for the entire project.

He stated that the second meeting in July would be a joint meeting with the Planning Commission and the three topics that he understood that they would like to talk about were: the mowing ordinance and anything above 10" tall had to be mowed. He stated that they could change the zoning on height, time period, etc. the next thing was the sign ordinance which was concerning size/location (cannot regulate content) in certain zones and the last thing was doublewides/modular homes.

Mr. Holman stated that he would like to see a zoning map before the meeting to look at the zoning currently in place.

Mr. Holt suggested it in certain areas.

Mr. Crewe stated that it would have to be passed by zones.

Mr. Holt stated that the areas they were concerned about already had them.

Mr. Crewe stated that the difference was a modular set by frame was inspected differently vs. doublewides.

Mr. Bailey stated one had a title and one had a deed.

Mr. Crewe stated that was correct and on some modular's you had a certificate of occupancy.

Mr. Holt stated that they had approved for on frame modular's that came with a deed.

Mr. Crewe stated that manufactured homes came with a title and once they were placed on a foundation then it became real estate and the inspection was different.

Mr. Holt stated that some were grandfathered in but that he felt a lot would buy newer homes if it were allowed. He stated that not only would it look better but it would help the area look better.

Mr. Bailey asked in order to be approved that it would have to come with a deed.

Mayor Linkous stated that a doublewide with a title that was put on a permanent foundation could never be moved and they could apply for a deed.

Mr. Crewe stated that it transmuted from personal property to real estate. He stated that you could move a 1978 mobile home and put it on a permanent foundation, cut the tongue of it off, take the wheels off and petition the commissioner of revenue to reassess it.

Mr. Bailey asked who would determine what a permanent foundation was that anyone could come in and take it off of the foundation.

Mr. Crewe stated that it would be a building code issue. He stated that he could have Kris to come in before a joint meeting with Planning Commission to explain it.

Mayor Linkous stated that the manufacturer's information showed how it was inspected, etc.

Mr. Holt suggested that they reach out to S&M Homes who were knowledgeable regarding this. He stated that they had a lot of Bluefield, VA residents that went there and wanted to buy something but could not due to our regulations. He stated that they would come and give a run down.

Mr. Crewe stated regarding Bluefield College that council needed to think about what they wanted to do if they wanted to write a check or something annually. He stated that the sidewalks could be done which would connect from the Shell to the fountain and would be a public benefit. He stated that he believed they would qualify under the ARPA funding. He stated that it would have to be put out to bid but could be done quickly. He stated with it being a religious institution that it may disqualify it so we would be doing it for the citizens. He stated that he would get the numbers together.

Mr. Bailey asked that we work with VDOT on the crosswalk at the fountain.

Mr. Crewe stated that he would.

Mayor Linkous stated that he would think we could do it with the ARPA funding. He stated that Dr. Olive would like to get started now to begin the first phase. He asked if they had received any more than the \$125k.

Mrs. Payne stated that she believed they had received more but was no sure.

Mr. Crewe stated that the last time he had talked with Dr. Olive that they had received more but it was not double what they already had.

Mayor Linkous stated that they had a contract already lined up and were waiting to move forward. He stated that they wanted to do the front first but want to get started on it.

Mr. Crewe stated that the ARPA funding would allow us to do the sidewalks but not to make a gift to the college.

Mayor Linkous asked council to decide an amount tonight.

Mr. Trigg stated that he was ok with the sidewalks but the other would be done on their property and helping with the road and he did not agree with that and us not having a say so just like what happened with the new gyms when we gave them the money to help build.

Mr. Crewe stated that we could not build a road on private property that we would just be writing a check for them to use however they wanted to do so.

Mr. Trigg stated that he had citizens asking him why we were not fixing our roads.

Mr. Presley stated that we would be saving money by getting the \$5 million.

Mr. Crewe stated that we could not use it to fill a hole in the budget and would have to create it but he said there may be some savings.

Mr. Presley stated that there was ways to cut cost and if he was asking for a dollar amount.

Mr. Crewe stated two things assuming the sidewalk as something they wanted to do that it would help the college but would benefit the general public.

Mr. Presley stated that by doing that it would save money on a donation and we would not pay as much.

Mr. Crewe stated that the sidewalk was not included in the project that the total cost of the project was \$480k.

Mrs. Payne agreed that the town needed to do the sidewalks and the crosswalk at the fountain.

Mr. Presley suggested \$100k over 3-4 years.

Mr. Holt stated that he was not opposed to giving money but that they needed to address the town's issues as well. He stated that they had spent money on the Fincastle pool and needed to do the same at Harmony Acres along with other sidewalks and the other side of town and those underserved areas. He stated that he was not opposed to giving them \$25k over the next four years.

Mr. Trigg stated that they needed to look at Swift Mart towards the state line that there were some loose rocks falling there and someone was going to get hurt.

Mayor Linkous suggested using the ARPA funding for these concerns. He stated that when they got the contractor to do the sidewalks that they needed to do them all at the same time.

Mr. Holt stated that they could find ways to spend the money.

Mr. Crewe stated that the sidewalks would be separate from the Bluefield College project. He asked again if council wanted to do a certain contribution and give to them as a one-time check or over a certain amount of years.

Mayor Linkous suggested over a certain timeframe.

Mr. Bailey asked where the money would be coming from.

Mr. Crewe stated that he would find a place. He stated with the town receiving \$2.5 million that it would free up other money.

Mayor Linkous stated that they could spend \$100k on sidewalks from this.

Mr. Holman stated that if we decided to build the sidewalks that would be money taken off of the top of the project.

Mrs. Payne stated that sidewalks had nothing to do with the project.

Mayor Linkous stated that the total project was \$480k.

Mr. Crewe stated that they could also do sidewalks on the other side near Macados as well.

Mayor Linkous stated that once we had the money then we needed to look at the other areas in town and do it all at one time because it would be cheaper.

Mr. Presley asked if we could put up some no walking signs on the rock wall side near the college.

Mayor Linkous asked what was needed for Bluefield College.

Mr. Crewe stated a motion and a vote.

Mr. Bailey suggested that they direct the Town Manager to Dr. Olive and see how short they were before agreeing on an amount that they may not need.

Mayor Linkous stated that was a good idea.

Mr. Crewe stated that a week ago they had \$195k in hand which some was earmarked to Phase 2 but it was less than half of the total project.

Mrs. Payne stated that she could call Dr. Olive and see if he could come over.

Mr. Holman stated that it should be a conversation on the outside with the Town Manager.

Mr. Crewe stated that it could be done via phone.

Mr. Trigg stated that they also needed to look at sidewalks from Vencil Street to Crescent View that they had been asking for years, had the money for it but used it somewhere else.

Mr. Holman agreed that they needed to look at what all needed to be done.

Mr. Crewe stated that while they were waiting to hear back from Dr. Olive that he needed some guidance on something else. He stated that it had not been revealed publicly yet so he would not give a lot of details but there was an economic prospect that was interested in the old golf course property and was needing 50 flat acres (total 78 acres) with 3 phase power and 40k gallon of water daily. He stated that the Rich Property provided that and Tazewell County was not interested since they were still suffering the effects from the Bluestone. He stated that the individual wanted to talk to the landowner and see the options before but he needed guidance on it and if they wanted to go through the IDA or the Town but if done through the IDA that they would need to be given instructions. He stated that they were asking the town to buy 25 acres (he did not have a cost on it yet) and for the county to buy 25 acres then they would have all that they needed. He stated that another thing would be option on property which was \$3k per year and it locked in the set sales amount for a period of time and if they did not come then we would never buy the property. He stated that he knew it was vague and asked if they had any interest in pursuing or talking about this.

Mr. Holt stated that was the problem he had and they needed an Executive Session on it if were a contract issue before voting.

Mr. Crewe stated that he was not asking for a vote that he was asking if they would like to pursue it. He stated that it would probably take 3-4 Executive Sessions with the different boards and that this was coming from Tim Danielson, Tazewell County Economic Development. He stated that the interested party came here from Texas and was first looking at a site in Chicago but it did not work there.

Mayor Linkous stated that there was 1k acres at the Bluestone and asked why they did not consider it there.

Mr. Crewe stated it had something to do with the 3 phase power that did not match there.

Mr. Holman stated that it had 3 phase power but did not come in both directions.

Mr. Bailey asked that if the town bought 25 acres and the county bought 25 acres would that be "x" amount for a lease term and no fee to the business that this would be an incentive to them economically to come here.

Mr. Crewe stated that was one possibility or they could sell it to them, make a grant equal to it, etc.

Mr. Bailey asked if the 40k gallons of water per day coming out of the Bluestone would affect our water source.

Mr. Crewe stated that we had a cushion of 800k daily and could make more now that we had three wells that we would have ample capacity.

Mr. Presley stated that it would be coming out of our plant.

Mr. Crewe stated that was the expectation.

Mr. Bailey stated so it was not raw water.

Mr. Crewe stated that was correct.

Mr. Bailey asked if the nature of the business being in a residential area would involve truck traffic, livestock, etc.

Mr. Crewe stated that there would be truck traffic and food service was not far off of a definition for it but would not involve noise or smoke.

Mr. Bailey stated that he was trying to educate himself about it.

Mrs. Payne stated that Dr. Olive had messaged back and they had \$150k and pushing for \$50k from somewhere else so if the Town could do \$100k then they could reach the \$300k goal.

Mayor Linkous stated that they had the money for Phase 1.

Mr. Holman asked the total cost for Phase 2.

Mr. Crewe stated that he believed it was \$280k for Phase 2 and \$200k for Phase 1 but he may have those backwards.

Mrs. Payne stated that the total project cost was \$480k.

Mr. Holt stated that he would be in support of \$100k over 4 years.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion.

Mr. Holt made a motion to give Bluefield College \$100k over 4 years with the first payment when Phase 1 began. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember Bailey: Yes
Councilmember Holman: Yes

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

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

Mayor Linkous stated that Mrs. Payne abstained because she is an employee of Bluefield College.

Mr. Crewe stated that another item on his list involved Meadows Street where our officer hit the house. He stated that the gentleman could not get a loan for another 6 months and wanted to pay \$400 month and it be credited towards the purchase price. He stated as of now he had not paid anything and had to pay off some credit card debt to get his credit score up and had to keep that score for 6 months before they would give him a loan. He stated that it needed to be addressed now.

Mayor Linkous stated that it was kind of like a HUD type loan.

Mr. Holt stated that it was not worth much and suggested they give it to him with the agreement that he invested back into the home over 2-3 years.

Mayor Linkous stated that he had offered to buy it for \$20k-\$25k.

Mr. Crewe stated that was correct but he had not been able to get the money to do so yet.

Mr. Bailey stated that it was hard enough for a tenant to evict someone and it would look bad when Bluefield Daily printed a story of the Town of Bluefield evicting a disabled veteran.

Mr. Holt stated once again that he would be willing to give him the house as long as he made improvements to it.

Mr. Bailey stated that he would like to see him secure the finances and purchase it.

Mayor Linkous stated that Habitat for Humanity was going to give him the loan but they had some guidelines to follow.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was through rural development.

Mayor Linkous stated that he was willing to pay \$400 month towards the purchase price in 6-7 months when he got the loan.

Mr. Bailey stated that it would be 6 months interest free.

Mr. Trigg warned them if they started doing this they would be asking for problems.

Mr. Holman agreed that they did not want to get into that kind of business. He stated that they could hold the property until he secured the finances and whatever made better financial sense.

Mr. Crewe stated that they could do a purchase contract that says it's a balloon.

Mr. Holman stated that the town would still own it.

Mr. Bailey stated that it would be 6 months and another 30-60 days to close.

Mr. Trigg stated that people were watching what they did and asked what would happen when the next person came wanting the same thing.

Mr. Bailey agreed and stated that he did not want to get in the business of being a landlord.

Mr. Holman stated that we would own it either way.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was settlement for damages. He stated that the next thing was they had received an email regarding the upcoming ribbon cuttings for The Grind, Axe to Grind and the Beauty Salon on July 8th at 5 p.m. He stated that he would get the list of properties together for council to be looking at to declare surplus for auction.

Mayor Linkous suggested they go ahead and just give to Eddie to auction.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had tax maps with pictures.

Mayor Linkous stated that 99% were vacant or dilapidated lots.

Mr. Crewe stated that some we were paying to mow so no money was coming in.

Mayor Linkous asked if everyone was in agreement to give to Eddie Pauley.

Mr. Holt asked if there was anything that would be beneficial.

Mr. Crewe stated there was one at the shop.

Mr. Holman stated that he would like to see the list first.

Mr. Bailey stated that he knew some could be beneficial and he would like to look at the list as well.

Mr. Crewe stated that the people were coming tomorrow for the pool at Fincastle. He stated that they hoped to open by July 4th. He stated that it would be a budget issue because no lifeguards had been hired yet and there would be training needed on how to use the new filters, etc. He stated that the gas heaters were getting checked and he would like to run it one week open for free swims to see how things went. He stated that they were redoing the plumbing to the bathrooms and there would not be a full service snack bar but they could get sandwiches, etc. from

the restaurant. He stated that it would be baby steps before hiring a lot of lifeguards and hoped to keep it open through Labor Day or when everyone returned to school. He stated that it would be set to make money next year. He stated that they had two of the new golf carts that were damaged already and that both people left but we had tracked them down and told them they would have to pay for the damages.

He stated that in the past that the Town of Bluefield had taken requests to loan out the tents and that two church groups in Bluefield, WV had asked to borrow them along with porta johns. He stated that the big tent was ripped and was used when we purchased it and he was not for sure why we were loaning to WV.

Mr. Holman asked why the City did not provide it for them.

Mrs. Payne asked if they were Bluefield, VA churches.

Mr. Crewe stated no but there was another event coming up on Depot Street that was a long standing event and benefited the town.

Mr. Holman stated that the City of Bluefield needed to meet halfway.

Mr. Crewe agreed.

Mr. Bailey asked if any of the others were at the same time as the Depot Street event.

Mr. Crewe stated yes.

Council agreed to not loan to WV and allow for the Depot Street event.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg stated that the local Comcast office had not been reopened and were supposed to keep it open.

Mayor Linkous suggested we get in contact with the local representative.

Mr. Trigg stated that we did the best we could with no help.

Mrs. Payne stated that she had talked with Trent concerning Channel 7 not being on Comcast any longer and suggested that we get in touch with them. She stated during the Sanders House Board meeting last night that it was mentioned that the Community Foundation had not received many grants as of yet and the deadline was June 30th. She stated that she knew that the Beautification Commission had applied in the past and asked Kim.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that she and Lee had sit down earlier that she assumed it was the same meeting and discussed some things to apply for. She stated that she had applied for a grant

through the Community Foundation for the cemetery and was not sure if there was a limit of how many grants the Town could apply for.

Mrs. Payne asked what the cemetery had applied for.

Mrs. Hernandez stated some benches and extending the fence in the Black Historical Section and that she and Lee had set down and discussed some other options. She stated that if there were any thoughts for Beautification to let her know and she would apply for it.

Mr. Trigg reminded them about putting bathrooms at the Depot Street playground.

Mayor Linkous stated that it needed to be done under the Recovery Act.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to the Police Department and stated that GHS would be coming and asking for some money for their soccer trip. He asked that we have a Work Session before the next meeting.

Mr. Holt stated that he did not know if we owned the property but suggested applying for a shed at the Little League field to house equipment. He stated that they were looking to buy equipment in the future but would not do so until they had a shed to store it in. He stated that it would cost \$4k-\$6k to build one but would not be until next year. He stated that he would not be president next year but they would come asking for it.

Mrs. Payne stated that was a great idea to ask for from the Community Foundation.

Mr. Holt stated that something else they had asked him to bring up was the gravel section at the complex which was not considered a town road but they were asking that the town take it in. He stated that J-Rod had talked with Charlie and he seemed to think there was money available to pave it and make it a town road.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had talked to Charlie about it a couple of times and there was a possibility to take it in that we would declare it a town road and once we had it there would be funding for 1-2 years for the upkeep. He stated that we would be taking on a permanent thing with temporary funding.

Mr. Holt asked if there would be enough for paving.

Mr. Crewe stated that they had talked about gravel and Charlie was supposed to have come to the meeting but did not so he was not for sure.

Mr. Holt stated that it was used as a pass through from the Deerfield Subdivision to the schools and if we could do it without it being a huge impact on our pocketbook that he would like to see it happen.

Mr. Trigg stated that there was some property there that the town checked on years ago that we could use for parking.

Mayor Linkous stated it belonged to Mr. Skewes.

Mr. Trigg stated yes and he was not sure why the town did not get it but it would be enough for quite a few cars to park in.

Mr. Holt stated that was a great idea and wanted to bring up those things in the Work Session. He stated that if there was money available through the ARPA to do some of these projects they were talking about that it would be beneficial for all of the athletes who use that field and would be an opportunity to bring more money into this area from travel ball.

Mrs. Payne stated that they needed to ask the Skewes to donate that section to the town.

Mr. Holt stated that any way to expand would be good because they were running out of space. He stated that he thought they would grow even bigger next year to 300 kids.

Mr. Holman stated that they needed to prioritize the citizen's comments and look at having a Work Session. He stated that they needed to look at other projects, etc. and have a plan going forward to use this money. He stated that a lot of areas needed some attention in town and would like to look at our own first.

Mr. Bailey agreed with Rick and the others and stated that they had covered a lot of ground and needed to sit down and make a list, set goals and achieve them.

Mayor Linkous stated that near where Carol Hutchinson lived that there was raw sewage coming out from under the road and into her yard.

Mr. Holman stated that he would bring it up at the Sanitary Board meeting tomorrow.

Mayor Linkous stated that they had an Executive Session if council would still like to do it.

Mr. Holt stated that they could hold off.

Mrs. Payne asked that they do so.

Mr. Holt made a motion that they forego the Executive Session until a later time.

ADJOURN

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:41 p.m. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk