

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
July 12, 2022**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall located at 112 Huffard Drive, Bluefield, Virginia.

PRESENT

Donnie Linkous, Mayor
Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor
Chuck Presley, Councilmember
Rick Holman, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Greg DeGray, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police
5 Members of Police Department
11 members of public

ABSENT

Cathy Payne, Councilmember
James Hampton, Asst. Mgr./Treasurer/Transit Dir.

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

Lee Riffe led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Special Check Presentation-Police Department: Paul and Carroll Cole Foundation

Charlie Cole and family members presented a check to the Police Department Special Response Team for a new ballistic entry shield.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND REPORTS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Budget Amendment, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez stated read the following budget amendment:

PURPOSE: Christmas Decorations (donation)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts &	<u>\$47,517.60</u>	<u>\$48,017.60</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
	Donations	<u>\$47,517.60</u>	<u>\$48,017.60</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5642	Christmas Lights	<u>\$53,200.00</u>	<u>\$53,700.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>
		<u>\$53,200.00</u>	<u>\$53,700.00</u>	<u>\$500.00</u>

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Christmas Decorations Budget Amendment. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

Councilmember DeGray: Yes
 Councilmember Holman: Yes
 Vice-Mayor Holt: Yes
 Councilmember Presley: Yes
 Councilmember Payne: Absent

Councilmember Trigg: Yes
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 5-0 in favor of approving the Christmas Decorations Budget Amendment.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Wohlford stated that the last storm was a big one with a lot of water flooding the roads and peoples house/basements. He stated that the issue was that the drains needed to be cleaned out and suggested having an engineer come in to look at all of the lines, etc.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Crewe stated that we had flooding all over town, all of our resources were used and there was nothing else we could have done. He stated that we had been picking up extra trash, etc. from the storm at no extra cost. He stated that the revitalization team was here yesterday and today, were enthused with the feedback and would be back in August with a draft and the final in September. He stated that the IDA had met earlier and would be meeting with Frye Roofing tomorrow to get an estimated on the Bank of Graham roof. He stated that the other one received was from a certified commercial company. He stated that the Cruz N the 'Field event was very successful and the best one yet, that funding for the sidewalks had been approved through VDOT which meant the Town would have to pay its percentage upfront and that he had received the paving list from Public Works and asked that they let him know if they had anything for paving.

Mr. Presley asked that the list be sent out.

Mr. Crewe stated that he would send it to council, he stated that Harmony Acres has had an interesting week and yesterday a little boy had jumped off the diving board and hit his head and that staff went into emergency mode to get the little boy taken care of but thankfully he was ok. He stated that Public Works had been busy with the flooding, trees down and the Fire Department had responded to several fires. He stated that we were still short staffed.

Mr. Presley asked if the ones lost in Public Works needed to be replaced or should they increase the pay of those left.

Mr. Crewe stated that they needed the bodies there.

Mr. Holman asked if anything had been finalized regarding Police Department raises.

Mr. Crewe stated that he needed to talk with Chief.

Mr. Holman asked if there was a minimum salary.

Mr. Crewe stated that no one was making less than \$11.22. He stated that we had to order a new motor for one of the garbage trucks and was still trying to find a new truck.

Mr. Holman asked if there were job descriptions for each job.

Mr. Crewe stated for some and there was a pay scale set for those types of positions.

Mr. Holman stated that they had to have progression moving forward.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. DeGray stated that there was good attendance at the July 4th event at Fincastle and also at the last Field Fest with the antique cars bringing more people in. He asked if the website could be fixed that right now it had a space between Blue and Field and also to delete or update the latest news section. He stated that it was good that Trent was working on competitive pay for our employees because we had good quality employees that needed to be paid well.

Mr. Holman commended Public Works on all of the storms and stated that the flooding happened in a short amount of time and he appreciated their quick response. He agreed with the successful events and thanked all town employees for what they did.

Mr. Holt stated that he was out of town during the last storm but received several messages regarding it but that it was not a drainage issue because it was Town wide and was bound to happen. He stated that 4" of water in an hour was a lot of water and that the Town did a good job with what was dealt to us. He thanked the Police and Fire Departments for all that they did.

Mr. Presley stated that he had a lot of messages as well and we may be able to help some of those who were flooded. He asked to see the notes on the revitalization meetings and stated that the car show was awesome and we needed to have more events like that. He gave a shout out to the Fire and Police Chief along with the Recreation Department and thanked everyone for coming out. He agreed that the employees needed to be paid well to keep them.

Mr. Trigg thanked everyone for coming out and stated that the drain on Depot Street that he had asked about was still stopped up but that it was on the other end.

Mayor Linkous stated that he was out all night during the last storm and that the water was pouring into the building at Fincastle. He stated that he had called John but John could not get out of his neighborhood because of the high water. He stated that they got it back in order and opened the next day and that the new drainage system on the golf course had helped tremendously. He stated that he had received an email complaining that we were catering to the rich because of the July 4th event being held at Fincastle but that everyone needed to realize that Fincastle was open to the public. He stated that the drainage on 460 near Hickory Hills was an issue and asked staff to talk with VDOT concerning it.

Mr. Holman stated that by cleaning up the leaves that it would help in Hickory Hills.

Mr. Presley stated that the roof leaking at Fincastle should be under warranty.

Mayor Linkous stated that he guessed that there was so much water that it engulfed the roof drains and made the water come in on the banquet room side.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was coming down the column.

Mr. Holman asked if there had been any more leaks since.

Mr. Crewe stated no.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk

