

**Town of Bluefield  
Town Council  
Minutes  
July 27, 2021**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, July 27, 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  
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember  
Chuck Presley, Councilmember  
Cathy Payne, Councilmember

**ALSO PRESENT**

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney  
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk  
Shane Gunter, Police Chief  
James Hampton, Asst. Mgr./Treasurer/Transit Dir.  
5 members of public

**ABSENT**

Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor  
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember  
Rick Holman, Councilmember

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**INVOCATION AND PLEDGE**

Jim Drake, Parkview Baptist Church led the Invocation. Mayor Linkous led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Councilmember Presley made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Councilmember Payne 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**

***Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez***

Mrs. Hernandez went over the following Budget Amendments:

**PURPOSE:** Graham Youth League

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0100-0509	Prior Year	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	Reserves	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
8130-5669	Graham Youth	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
	League	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Security Services (James Drew Carnival)

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. State	<u>\$92,864.00</u>	<u>\$102,559.00</u>	<u>\$9,695.00</u>
	Law Enforcement	<u>\$92,864.00</u>	<u>\$102,559.00</u>	<u>\$9,695.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-1200	Salaries-Overtime	<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,695.00</u>	<u>\$9,695.00</u>
		<u>\$20,000.00</u>	<u>\$29,695.00</u>	<u>\$9,695.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Security Services (Aramark)

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. State	<u>\$102,559.00</u>	<u>\$103,409.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>
	Law Enforcement	<u>\$102,559.00</u>	<u>\$103,409.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-1200	Salaries-Overtime	<u>\$29,695.00</u>	<u>\$30,545.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>
		<u>\$29,695.00</u>	<u>\$30,545.00</u>	<u>\$850.00</u>

**PURPOSE:** Restitution from Nathaniel Hurt for Vet Services

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. State	<u>\$103,409.00</u>	<u>\$103,576.52</u>	<u>\$167.52</u>
	Law Enforcement	<u>\$103,409.00</u>	<u>\$103,576.52</u>	<u>\$167.52</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-8210	Animal Control	<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,167.52</u>	<u>\$167.52</u>
		<u>\$6,000.00</u>	<u>\$6,167.52</u>	<u>\$167.52</u>

**PURPOSE:** Restitution from Nathaniel Hurt for Vet Services

**Revenue**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
0400-0413	Misc. State	<u>\$103,576.52</u>	<u>\$103,674.34</u>	<u>\$97.82</u>
	Law Enforcement	<u>\$103,576.52</u>	<u>\$103,674.34</u>	<u>\$97.82</u>

**Expenditure**

<b>Line Item</b>		<b>Original Budget</b>	<b>Amended Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
3110-8210	Animal Control	<u>\$6,167.52</u>	<u>\$6,265.34</u>	<u>\$97.82</u>
		<u>\$6,167.52</u>	<u>\$6,265.34</u>	<u>\$97.82</u>

Mr. Trigg made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 3-0 in favor.

***Resolution-Sidewalks/Valley Dale Street, ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Crewe stated that these had been done before and we did not know if we would receive them or not but they were an 80/20 match with 20% required by the Town. He read the following:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA TO APPLY FOR APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIDEWALKS ON VALLEY DALE STREET THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM, AND UPON AWARD, FOR THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENTS.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Resolution-Valley Dale Street. Mrs. Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 3-0 in favor.

***Resolution-Sidewalks/South College, ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Crewe read the following:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA TO APPLY FOR APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO SIDEWALKS ON SOUTH COLLEGE THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM, AND UPON AWARD, FOR THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENTS.

Mrs. Payne made a motion to approve the Resolution-South College. Mr. Presley seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Bailey:	Absent
Councilmember Holman:	Absent

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 3-0 in favor.

***Resolution-Sidewalks/College Avenue, ROLL CALL VOTE***

Mr. Crewe stated that this one would from the fountain down the hill past Bluefield College. He read the following:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA TO APPLY FOR APPLICATION TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW SIDEWALKS ON COLLEGE AVENUE THROUGH THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PROGRAM, AND UPON AWARD, FOR THE TOWN MANAGER TO EXECUTE PROJECT ADMINISTRATION AGREEMENTS.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Resolution-College Avenue. Mrs. Payne seconded the motion.

Mayor Linkous asked to do roll call and report.

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 3-0 in favor.

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**

Betty Kuppusami thanked the town for their sponsorship and thanked Kim for all that she had done to help them. She stated that they had kept the phones hot calling her. She thanked Public Works as well who dropped off and picked up all of the stuff.

Mayor Linkous stated that he appreciated all that they did and was sorry that he could not be there.

Mr. Presley asked if they done any live social media.

Mrs. Kuppusami stated that they were live on WVVA both days and that Bluefield Daily Telegraph had done them wonderful as well. She stated that they would be sending thank you notes to all.

Jerry Henegar, Ridgeway Drive stated that there were issues with people leaving their trash out at the apartments on the corner. He stated that they were putting it out daily and it sit there all week long. He stated that it was an eyesore and needed to be addressed.

Mr. Crewe stated that we were limited to what could be done on private property.

Mr. Henegar stated that it was in the road.

Mr. Presley stated that this was what he had been emailing.

Mayor Linkous suggested getting them for littering and asked Trent to look into it. He agreed that it was terrible.

Mr. Henegar stated that there was an issue with rental properties as well and them not mowing their grass. He asked Chief about the lady who was ran over at the Princeton Wal-Mart and if the Police Department had jurisdiction in the Wal-Mart parking lot.

Chief stated for reckless driving and that they were daily.

Dave Wohlford asked what the tax rate on contractors was.

Mr. Hampton stated 15 cents per 100.

Mr. Wohlford stated that we had a contractor put in a gas line that was 2 ½ miles long and cost over \$1 million. He stated that it should be at least \$1.50 to \$2.

Mr. Hampton stated that we were limited by state code.

Mr. Wohlford stated that there was a \$25k limit before having to apply for a business license. He stated that the painting being done at Sam's was by unlicensed contractors. He asked that they look into mobile homes and that HUD defined doublewides on frames with wheels and there were two types of modular's built to VA Code. He stated that he had no problem with a true modular and those on frames needed to go in a mobile home park. He stated that a modular that came in on trailers and set with a crane were a true modular. He stated that they had a foundation

in place before it got there. He asked that we help spread the word about a FEMA program that helped with COVID funeral expenses. He stated that they gave \$9k per death and he knew this because his friend's mother had passed away and he had applied for funding. He stated that he received \$4800 which helped to close the estate. He stated that they needed to get this information out and it included anything after last January and they could still apply.

Mayor Linkous asked that staff look into the facts and put it on the board and in the newsletter.

Mr. Wohlford stated that he verified it before saying anything and it came up if you googled FEMA COVID Funeral Expenses.

Mayor Linkous thanked him for bringing this to their attention.

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

Chief stated that one of his officers welcomed an 8lb boy recently. He stated that they were fully staffed which was a great thing and he hoped they would stay there. He stated otherwise it was business as usual.

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

Mr. Crewe stated that Chief failed to mention that they had received a thank you from the Sheriff's Department regarding our Police Department catching a fugitive. He stated that we had a good working relationship. He stated that Public Works had helped with the Quilters Show and this showed that our employee's heart was in the right place. He asked that council give him a list of streets they would live to see paved so that he could make a list.

Mr. Presley stated that he had a long list.

Mr. Crewe stated that there were some parking issues/property damage during the event that took place on the 24<sup>th</sup> but in large it went well. He stated that if council wanted to do something with the ordinance on modular homes and grass to let him know. He stated that in meeting with the Rec Department that they had a calendar full of events but the issue was facilities. He stated that during the fall/winter they would like to have a child care program with volunteer counselors and had approval from the church to use their facility, had suggested changes in the Farmer's Market program and having a community yard sale one Saturday each month, Bingo Wednesday in the Council Chambers, a drive in movie using an FM transmitter, a book club, adult art class but the issue would be supplies and where to have it, an adult fitness and nutrition program, a fun run and were currently working on the 2 VA's 5K and a Halloween event working with the churches on a trunk or treat. He stated that they had a lot of exciting ideas and he had asked them to get all of the details. He stated that the Fincastle pool was waiting on the railing and two parts for the heater. He stated that he had a couple of other items to discuss in closed session and that James had been a big help on the budget and had helped on a personnel issue as well.

## COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg stated that had a few things to discuss at a later time.

Mrs. Payne stated that something needed to be done at Fincastle because today she was on the golf course because of someone speeding and on her side. She asked if they could put in speed bumps.

Mr. Crewe stated that was possible.

Chief asked if it was happening at specific times.

Mrs. Payne stated no that it was almost every day.

Mr. Wohlford suggested the rubber speed bumps like WV that could be taken up in the winter time.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to the Police Department, Fire Department and thanked all of the citizens who came out. He stated that he appreciated the clean up on Mountain Lane and that a few citizens had put up their own cameras. He asked about ATV's being on streets and if the fire hydrants received regular maintenance.

Mr. Crewe stated that they were supposed to be.

Mr. Presley asked for another Work Session soon.

Mr. Wohlford stated that the fire hydrant on Fairway was invisible again. He stated that it was basically on the person's property and they should be required by an ordinance to keep it cut. He stated that there were also cars that parked in front of it.

Mayor Linkous stated that it needed to be top priority. He stated that paving the streets was a good thing and we needed to put pressure on Macados because their road was terrible and was a bad hazard. He stated that if someone were on a motorcycle that they could be killed. He stated that our former Police Chief's son Bill Asbury was ran over by a car and was in the hospital. He stated that they were looking for a rehab center for him. He stated that the individual who had hit him had been in contact with the family and was very sorry and stated that they did not see him. He asked that we send a card or call Jack & Viola checking on him. He stated that contractors were supposed to have a license and these mom and pops who were buying their kids trucks with snowplows attached costed him an additional \$8k-\$10k per year because of insurance and gross that had to be paid for business license reporting. He suggested anyone in the town to come and pay a fee and have a sticker on their windshield to do work and if they did not have one then they could get pulled over.

Mr. Wohlford stated that DPOR could not enforce this until they got a license.

Mayor Linkous stated that there were kids in WV who mowed grass and they started requiring them to get a license. He stated that he did not want to get that technical.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Mayor Linkous asked that they invite James Hampton into the Executive Session and it would be normal going forward. He asked the Clerk to read the Executive Session.

**MOTION FOR CLOSED MEETING**

It is hereby moved that the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia enter into a closed meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A) (6) of the Code of Virginia as amended, The specific purpose for this motion is to discuss the following matter(s):

Discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the government unit would be adversely affected with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): prospective business.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to enter into Executive Session.

Councilmember Trigg made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Councilmember Presley seconded the motion.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Bailey:	Absent
Councilmember Holman:	Absent
Vice-Mayor Holt:	Absent
Councilmember Presley:	Yes
Councilmember Payne:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	Yes

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 4-0 in favor of going into Executive Session.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to resume open meeting.

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter back into regular session. Councilmember Payne seconded the motion.

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 3-0 in favor of returning to open session.

Mayor Linkous asked the Clerk to read the certification.

**CERTIFICATION OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia convened a closed meeting on July 27, 2021, pursuant to a duly adopted motion, attached hereto, and such closed meeting was convened in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council of Bluefield, Virginia returned to its open meeting held on July 27, 2021.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF BLUEFIELD, VIRGINIA HEREBY CERTIFIES that to the best of each member's knowledge (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act were discussed in the closed meeting held on July 27, 2021, to which this certification applies and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening such closed meeting were heard, discussed, or considered by the Council of the Town of Bluefield, Virginia in such closed meeting.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve the certification.

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

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

**ROLL CALL VOTE**

Councilmember Bailey: Absent  
Councilmember Holman: Absent  
Vice-Mayor Holt: Absent  
Councilmember Presley: Yes  
Councilmember Payne: Yes  
Councilmember Trigg: Yes  
Mayor Linkous: Yes

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 4-0 for the certification.

**ADJOURN**

Mayor Linkous adjourned the meeting at 10:06 p.m.

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D.S. Linkous, Mayor

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Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk