

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
September 13, 2022**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 13, 2022 at 6:00 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
Rick Holman, Councilmember
Anglis Trigg, Councilmember
Greg DeGray, Councilmember
Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor

ALSO PRESENT

Trent Crewe, Manager/Town Attorney
Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk
23 members of public

ABSENT

James Hampton, Asst. Mgr./Treasurer/Transit Dir.
Shane Gunter, Chief of Police

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linkous called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Linkous 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) (1,6) of the Code of Virginia as amended, The specific purpose for this motion is to discuss the following matter(s):

Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body and 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 governmental unit would be adversely affected with such closed meeting being confined to the following subject (s): Town Manager, Council and discussion of the investment of public funds.

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

Councilmember Presley made a motion to enter into Executive Session as described above. Vice-Mayor Holt seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 5-0 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 stated that they would be recessing the Executive Session and would be returning after the regular meeting.

INVOCATION AND PLEDGE

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vice-Mayor Holt 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 Presentation, Riley's Service Station – Mayor Linkous

Mayor Linkous read the plaque and presented it to Garnet.

Mr. Trigg stated that he was one of the best in Bluefield, Virginia and did a good job.

Mrs. Payne congratulated him on his years of service and to enjoy his retirement.

Mr. Presley told him to have fun.

Mr. Holt stated for him to be a small business owner and remain in business for 44 years that he had done something right. He congratulated him on his retirement.

Mr. Holman agreed on the longevity and congratulated him as well.

Mr. DeGray thanked him for his years of service to our community.

Citizen Request - Joel Yocum

Joel Yocum, 101 East Mountain View stated that he had Stormwater issues since 2020. He stated that there was Stormwater running down the street and that he had contacted the town and was told that it was not a town problem since it was on his property. He stated that he had talked to a sinkhole company in Princeton who worked on a sinkhole that opened up and recommended leaving it to settle until spring 2021 when they would do some more work on it. He stated that another sinkhole was discovered in the fall 2021 and then he contacted Donnie Linkous who came out with Trent to look at it. He stated that Lambert's Construction excavated it and went down 10-12 feet and did not find a bottom so it was backfilled with smaller and larger stone and concrete. He stated that he had a proposal from Lambert's to fix the driveway correctly which included the lower part of the driveway being raised so that the water went into the drainage. He stated that his yard was beginning to sink and that the cost was \$6,300 to redo and fix the issue. He stated that Trent told him that estimate was too high and we should only be paying around \$1,500. He stated that was not right because this was nothing he had done and asked the town to consider paying for this.

Mayor Linkous stated that he and Trent went and looked and it was going into the area he talked about. He stated that Lambert's came up with a fix but could not do the paving until this year when the asphalt plants opened.

Mr. Holman asked what the scope of work included.

Mr. Crewe stated that it did not include the asphalt.

Mayor Linkous stated that they had to finish what was started and did not know if that was high or low.

Mr. Crewe stated that the issue when Lambert's left was a 2ft. area that someone had since paved lower than the rest of the driveway. He stated that they did not know who paved it and if it had been done correctly then it would have been fixed. He stated that the estimate Lambert's had given was to fix the whole driveway not the 2ft. area and that was not what the town agreed to fix.

Mr. Holman and Mrs. Payne asked to get another estimate.

Mr. Yocum stated that the 2ft. area from the ditch line would have to blend into the lower end and would have to be raised at the house.

Mayor Linkous asked if council wanted to get other estimates or let Lambert's finish the job.

Mr. Holman stated that he would entertain another option.

Mrs. Payne stated that she would like to see another estimate but understood that it was hard right now to get someone to do that.

Mayor Linkous asked if the ones paving the town's streets could do it.

Mr. Crewe stated that he could check but the question would be what needs to be paved to fix the problem.

Mr. Holman stated that they had a solution and made a motion to approve \$6,300 to fix the driveway. Mr. Holt 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:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 6-0 in favor of paying \$6,300 to fix the driveway located at 101 East Mountain View.

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: DCJS Equipment Grant (Taser Replacement)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$132,696.00</u>	<u>\$151,446.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$132,696.00</u>	<u>\$151,446.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-8106	Grants	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>
		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>	<u>\$18,750.00</u>

PURPOSE: Employment Contract Repayment (Jared Barger)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$151,446.00</u>	<u>\$153,248.00</u>	<u>\$1,802.00</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$151,446.00</u>	<u>\$153,248.00</u>	<u>\$1,802.00</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-5500	Travel &	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,802.00</u>	<u>\$1,802.00</u>
	Training	<u>\$15,000.00</u>	<u>\$16,802.00</u>	<u>\$1,802.00</u>

PURPOSE: Employment Contract Repayment (Jared Barger)

Revenue		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
0400-0413	Misc. Law	<u>\$153,248.00</u>	<u>\$155,803.34</u>	<u>\$2,555.34</u>
	Enforcement	<u>\$153,248.00</u>	<u>\$155,803.34</u>	<u>\$2,555.34</u>

Expenditure		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
Line Item				
3110-5500	Travel &	<u>\$16,802.00</u>	<u>\$19,357.34</u>	<u>\$2,555.34</u>
	Training	<u>\$16,802.00</u>	<u>\$19,357.34</u>	<u>\$2,555.34</u>

PURPOSE: June Oblinger Shott Foundation Grant (Christmas)

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3108-9903	Gifts & Donations	<u>\$6,198.00</u>	<u>\$18,188.00</u>	<u>\$11,990.00</u>
		<u>\$6,198.00</u>	<u>\$18,188.00</u>	<u>\$11,990.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5657	Special Events	<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$21,990.00</u>	<u>\$11,990.00</u>
		<u>\$10,000.00</u>	<u>\$21,990.00</u>	<u>\$11,990.00</u>

PURPOSE: IDA Seed Money

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5649	IDA Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
		<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
9100-5860	ARPA	<u>\$4,358,468.00</u>	<u>\$4,308,468.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>
		<u>\$4,358,468.00</u>	<u>\$4,308,468.00</u>	<u>\$50,000.00</u>

PURPOSE: IDA Yearly Contribution

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
8120-5649	IDA Expenses	<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$55,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
		<u>\$50,000.00</u>	<u>\$55,000.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
9100-5860	ARPA	<u>\$4,308,468.00</u>	<u>\$4,303,468.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>
		<u>\$4,308,468.00</u>	<u>\$4,303,468.00</u>	<u>\$5,000.00</u>

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Trigg 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:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes

Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of approving the Budget Amendments.

ARPA Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Trent Crewe

Mr. Crewe asked that council approve moving \$264,701.92 out of the ARPA line item and putting into the individual departments as shown.

Mr. Presley made a motion to approve the ARPA Budget Amendments. Mr. Holt 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:	Yes
Councilmember Trigg:	Yes
Mayor Linkous:	No Vote Permitted

Motion carried 6-0 in favor of approving the ARPA Budget Amendments.

Line Item	Department	Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
10.1200.1100	Salaries -Regular Manager	\$182,000	\$182,499.20	\$499.20
10.1241.1100	Salaries -Regular Treasurer	\$86,000	\$90,359.68	\$4,359.68
10.1243.1100	Salaries -Regular Bookkeeping	\$80,000	\$84,223.00	\$4,223.00
10.1252.1100	Salaries -Regular Vehicle Maint.	\$60,000	\$65,969.60	\$5,969.60
10.3110.1100	Salaries -Regular Police	\$880,000	\$1,011,638.40	\$131,638.40
10.4120.1100	Salaries -Regular Street	\$260,000	\$274,196.00	\$14,196.00
10.4230.1100	Salaries -Regular Refuse	\$175,000	\$183,902.40	\$8,902.40
10.4320.1100	Salaries -Regular Town Hall	\$21,000	\$21,354.00	\$354.00
10.7130.1100	Salaries -Regular Recreation	\$111,000	\$119,507.20	\$8,507.20
10.7140.1100	Salaries -Regular Cemetery	\$50,000	\$54,846.40	\$4,846.40
10.8160.1100	Salaries -Regular Zoning	\$52,000	\$53,955.00	\$1,955.00
23.4044.1100	Salaries -Regular Water Dept.	\$100,000	\$108,268.00	\$8,268.00
23.4045.1100	Salaries -Regular Water Plant	\$202,000	\$213,128.00	\$11,128.00
34.4816.1100	Salaries -Regular Transit	\$179,540	\$191,799.52	\$12,259.52
40.1220.1100	Salaries -Regular Fincastle Grounds	\$200,000	\$205,657.60	\$5,657.60
40.1230.1100	Salaries -Regular Fincastle Building	\$190,000	\$201,419.20	\$11,419.20
10.4120.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Street	\$95,000	\$98,673.60	\$3,673.60
10.7130.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Recreation	\$75,000	\$80,526.40	\$5,526.40
23.4044.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Water Dept.	\$20,000	\$21,693.12	\$1,693.12
23.4045.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Water Plant	\$51,000	\$51,873.60	\$873.60
34.4816.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Transit	\$20,000	\$20,915.20	\$915.20
40.1220.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Fincastle Grounds	\$35,000	\$43,409.60	\$8,409.60
40.1230.1300	Part-Time Salaries - Regular Fincastle Building	\$120,000	\$129,427.20	\$9,427.20
Total Increase				\$264,701.92
10.9100.5860	American Rescue Plan Act(ARPA)	\$4,303,468	\$4,038,766.10	\$264,701.92

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Wohlford stated that there was glass at the location of the old Sedgewood swimming pool and that it needed to be shut down to keep kids out of it. He stated that he had received photos from one of his daughters @ Pinehill Park playground that the equipment was damaged. He stated that the steps on the main structure were collapsing and needed to be fixed with NE1 bonding and asked that they go out and look at the parks. He stated that the pits under the swings were deep and needed to be mulched along with the equipment being pressure washed. He stated that Graham Rec Park was not in good condition either. He stated that Martin Contracting was fraudulent and did not have a VA License and neither did Lambert Construction from what he could see and asked that the town confirm it.

Mr. Crewe stated that they had a license when the work was done.

Heather, Recreation handed out their fall schedule.

Mr. Holman asked if the information was on the town's website.

Heather stated that there was a link on the town's website to the recreation website.

Mr. Holman asked if it could be collapsed into one.

Mr. Crewe stated not practically because there were different services, contracts, etc.

Mrs. Payne asked how much the Rec Department paid for their website.

Heather stated that they did not own the domain and it was free through WIX.

POLICE CHIEF'S REPORT

None.

TOWN MANAGER'S/ATTORNEY'S REPORT

Mr. Crewe stated he had offered the job opening in the Zoning Department to a young lady who would let him know if she would accept it tomorrow. He stated that we had an opening in the Water Department but were looking to hire within and another one in accounts payable. He stated that the Hugh Shott Foundation grant was still on hold, the Cumberland Plateau would be meeting on October 4th if anyone would like to attend, he had met with the City today regarding the monument, we were approved for two VDOT projects (College Avenue & Valley Dale), he had given them a number tonight which would take care of the employees and he would be bringing another number back at the next meeting for things such as the bridge, pickle ball courts, vehicles, etc., AAA Paving had been given the go ahead to start paving, Autumn Jamboree was held and Kim was still drying out, the new gazebo should be installed at the end of the month, 2 buses have been ordered along with a new garbage truck that we would get in February/March. He stated that a retirement luncheon for Barbara Mayo would be held on September 20th @ 11:30 a.m. at Fincastle and invited council to attend, that the new water project was close to being ready to go out for bid, the Recreation Department was preparing for Trunk or Treat, the Haunted Hayride, Drive In Movies and were getting sponsors for the Haunted Hayride. He stated that there was another softball tournament this weekend, the pre-audit was being finished up, the diesel would be polished on September 21st and that Norfolk Southern would be shutting down two railroad crossings (Furnace and Thistle) on Monday, 19th from 9:15 a.m. – 3 p.m. to work on and there would no other access in or out during that time. He stated that Chief Gunter was attending a conference in Roanoke.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Trigg had none.

Mrs. Payne stated that she was not able to attend the Autumn Jamboree but heard it was nice although the weather was not. She thanked the volunteers for all that they did. She stated that the Sanders House Bazaar would be held on November 5th and 6th and vendors were needed.

Mr. Presley gave a shout out to the Police and Fire Department, staff and the quilter ladies. He stated that it was a good meeting.

Mr. Holt agreed that it was a good meeting. He stated that he appreciated all that staff done and hated that the weather was bad for the Autumn Jamboree. He stated that he was impressed that we stuck with it the way we did which showed a lot of commitment and thanked everyone for all of the work they continue to do.

Mr. Holman thanked everyone for the work they did on the Autumn Jamboree and stated that he was also in the rain that day as well. He stated that he appreciated the sacrifice and heard good comments.

Mr. DeGray thanked staff for what they did, thanked Trent for always reacting well when things came up and keeping the ship running as smoothly as possible. He thanked Kim for doing the best she could for the Autumn Jamboree that it seemed to always rain for our events but appreciated her efforts.

Mayor Linkous stated that the Autumn Jamboree was pretty wet and that one band had to quit playing early due to the water getting into their sound system.

Mr. Presley stated that he had a gentleman come up to him from that band talking about fixing the stage.

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was already being talked about.

Mayor Linkous stated that they were also talking about doing a permanent stage.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to reconvene the Executive Session.

Mrs. Payne made a motion to reconvene the Executive Session. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to resume open meeting.

Councilmember Holman made a motion to enter back into regular session. Councilmember 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: Yes
Councilmember Trigg: Yes
Mayor Linkous: No Vote Permitted

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 6-0 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 September 13, 2022, 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 September 13, 2022.

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 September 13, 2022, 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. Holman made a motion to approve the certification. Councilmember 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: Yes
Councilmember Trigg: Yes
Mayor Linkous: Yes

Mrs. Hernandez stated that it was 7-0 approving the certification.

ADJOURN

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

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk