

**Town of Bluefield
Town Council
Minutes
September 28, 2021**

The Bluefield, Virginia Town Council held a regularly scheduled Town Council Meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 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
Ron Holt, Vice-Mayor
Jarrod Bailey, Councilmember

ALSO PRESENT

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

ABSENT

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 Payne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

CITIZEN REQUESTS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Budget Amendments, ROLL CALL VOTE – Kim Hernandez

Mrs. Hernandez went over the following Budget Amendments:

PURPOSE: High Street Project

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0100-0509	Prior Year	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$529,000.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>
	Reserves	<u>\$5,000.00</u>	<u>\$529,000.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
9400-6021	High Street	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>
	Project	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>	<u>\$524,000.00</u>

PURPOSE: Restitution Timothy Bourne

Revenue

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
0400-0413	Misc. State	<u>\$146,630.93</u>	<u>\$146,658.48</u>	<u>\$27.53</u>
	Law Enforcement	<u>\$146,630.93</u>	<u>\$146,658.48</u>	<u>\$27.53</u>

Expenditure

Line Item		Original Budget	Amended Budget	Change
3110-6010	Guns, Ammo	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$12,027.53</u>	<u>\$27.53</u>
	Night Stick, etc.	<u>\$12,000.00</u>	<u>\$12,027.53</u>	<u>\$27.53</u>

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to approve.

Mr. Holt made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

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

ROLL CALL VOTE

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

Mayor Linkous suggested having a joint meeting to discuss it.

Mr. Crewe stated that could be done.

Mr. Bailey stated that a special called meeting would have to be advertised.

Mr. Holt suggested the Mayor along with Jarrod meet and discuss with them.

Mayor Linkous stated that if they were all there, it would give them an opportunity to speak.

Mr. Crewe stated the next thing was direction on the two houses on Virginia Ave. He stated that he had talked to the realtor and they were being sold together. He stated that the cost was \$45k but the realtor said he would entertain another offer.

Mrs. Payne asked if one of the houses was considered historical.

Lee Riffe stated that one was a doctor's house and suggested that if a parking lot were built that it be named after the doctor.

Mr. Crewe stated that he had looked at the photos online and that neither were in good shape. He stated that he would pursue if council wanted him too.

Mr. Holt asked how many properties the Town currently owned.

Mr. Crewe stated that there were 45-50 that would be of no use to the Town and we were getting ready to sell them.

Mr. Holt cautioned the Town on buying two more properties.

Mr. Bailey asked if we would make enough by selling the other ones to purchase these.

Mr. Crewe stated that it was unlikely and was costing more for the Town to mow them.

Mr. Bailey asked if the ARPA money could be used.

Mr. Crewe stated that he was investigating it as an outdoor use and would talk to him more. He stated that we had received the new snow truck which arrived last Thursday. He stated that it had a stainless steel bed and we would have to put a plow on it. He stated that we paid a little over \$1,800 more but got a 2022 model. He stated that the IDA had met that day and one of the issues discussed were ants inside the wall of The Lady Project and The Grind. He stated that he had authorized Pest Control to come in and treat them which was \$60 and would have them to continue every other month or monthly if needed. He stated that a crosswalk had been painted to access the handicap parking across the street and James had been working on the finances. He stated that IDA had no idea of the finances nor the poor work that had been done. He stated that they had received an invoice from Fire Safety Products for \$28k but had asked for an itemized list and that

have it here. He stated that it could either be hosted in this building or at the Treasurer's Office. He stated that it was not financially viable for the Town and we would have to purchase 1-2 computers, a dedicated server, a printer with two drawers, the funds would have to be separated, etc. He stated that it would be for vehicle functions only so no driver's license could be obtained or renewed. He stated that the Town would receive 4 ½% in pay and it would require staff and 2-3 days of training as well. He stated that he would continue to look into it. He stated that a connection with IDA had called about the Town owned properties and would be happy to rehabilitate and renovate these properties at half the cost when sold. He stated that unless council told him differently that he would look into this and get more details. He stated that the Town had received a grant from the Community Foundation for \$7,500 for the historical section of the cemetery. He stated that the historical marker had already been paid for and they would like to unveil it the Friday after Thanksgiving. He stated that we would have it ready and covered for them to have the unveiling ceremony. He stated that Susie Green had asked that the Mayor and Anglis speak, put an article in the Town's newsletter and put a link on the Town's website. He stated that a lot of the family would be in for Thanksgiving so this would be the perfect time to have it. He stated that there would be 3 granite stones with two benches on each side and a fence added. He stated that the grant was for the purchase of the benches and the fencing. He stated that Bluefield Monument hoped to get the granite here in May. He stated that the Recreation Department hosted their first drive in movie night that went well. He stated that we had received a call from AEP regarding a planned power outage in the downtown area on October 9th from 8-11 a.m. to repair lines. He stated that High Street was on hold because of Cleco hitting a gas line. He stated that the gas company was supposed to have been on site on Monday but the worker had COVID. He stated that he always liked to tell something good about the employees and James Hampton would be reluctant to let anyone know but he was re-elected to the Community Transportation Association which he had been on for a number of years. He stated that he was recognized by his peers for leadership. He stated that he was also renewing his Master of Government Treasurer's Certificate as well. He asked if they had any other thoughts, questions or instructions on what was talked about during Executive Session at the last meeting. He stated that there had been a little movement but there was no deadline. He stated that it was agreed to suspend the grievance until the lawyer and or council decided to do something.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Bailey had none.

Mr. Holt stated that he had worked with the GMS School Resource Officer and he done a wonderful job along with Sam and both were really helpful. He stated that he had been working on the emergency panic app.

Mr. Presley asked if it were for the adults.

Mr. Holt stated that it was for the teachers. He thanked Chief Gunter for their help.

Mr. Trigg stated that they had talked about not having enough room to do things and suggested that they look at Art Riley's old building. He stated that it was big but he was not sure the cost to have it renovated.

Mr. Crewe stated that was certainly something the Mayor could do. He suggested a plaque or certificate or a camping gift, etc. from the Town and a luncheon with all of the Public Works employees during the daytime.

Mayor Linkous stated that he would feel more comfortable during the day and suggested they invite the general public and have something during the day.

Mr. Presley suggested giving him a key to the Town.

Mayor Linkous asked that they all think about it.

ADJOURN

Mayor Linkous asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. Holt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Presley seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Mayor Linkous adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

D.S. Linkous, Mayor

Kim Hernandez, Town Clerk