

**TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA  
COUNCIL WORKSHOP MEETING**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
505 E 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET S  
BIG STONE GAP, VA**

**February 1, 2022**

**6:30 PM**

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order.

Those Present:           Hon. Gary Johnson, Mayor  
                                  Hon. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor  
                                  Hon. Robert Bloomer, Councilman  
                                  Hon. Kent Gilley, Councilman  
                                  Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman  
                                  Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman  
                                  Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

Staff Present:           Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager  
                                  Ms. Amanda Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
                                  Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney  
                                  Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop on January 4, 2022, the Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting on January 11, 2022, and the Regular Council Meeting on January 11, 2022.**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Greenbelt Phase V**

Mr. Broskey said the updated cost estimates for the Greenbelt Phase V Project are being reviewed and he hopes to have more information at the next meeting.

**System Wide Water Loss Project**

Mr. Broskey said they are working on the easements for the System Wide Water Loss Project. There are 13 easements – four property owners have signed the agreement, eight are reviewing them or having their attorneys review them, and one has refused to sign. Mr. Broskey said they will talk with that property owner again in the hopes of getting him to agree to the easement.

**Big Cherry Trails**

Mr. Broskey said environmental assessment on the Big Cherry Trails Project is finished and we have received the publication notice. He said we are working with the funding agency now.

**AGENDA ITEM 4****TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****a. Proclamation – 404 Café & Creamery**

Mr. Lawson said this proclamation is for the new 404 Café & Creamery on Shawnee Avenue. He said they are doing a soft opening this week ahead of their Grand Opening on Saturday.

**b. Resolution 03-2022 – Re-appoint Ked Meade to Housing Authority Board**

Mr. Lawson said this resolution is to reappoint Ked Meade to the Housing Authority, adding Ked has been a very important part of the Housing Authority Board since his appointment.

**c. Resolution 04-2022 – Appoint Allan Morris to Planning Commission**

Mr. Lawson said this resolution is to appoint Allan Morris to the Planning Commission. He noted that he didn't receive any names from Council for consideration in filling the vacancy and Mr. Morris was recommended to him by Matthew Bright.

**d. Projects Update**

Mr. Lawson said he is not sure if Michael Hatfield and Grant Kilgore will attend next week's meeting since they were unable to be here tonight, but he asked Council to email any questions to him so he can pass them on so they will have time to prepare.

He said he received three questions from the Fire Department for Council that he will pass on for them to consider and respond to.

**New Business**

Mr. Lawson said the 404 Café & Creamery will have a Grand Opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 am on Saturday. He gave kudos to Bobby and Elise for the business and the major improvements to the building. He said it makes the whole area look better which has inspired us to clean up the parking lot across the road and paint the tower.

**Fire Department**

He said that Billy Chandler has requested new siding for Fire Station 2 on Dogwood Drive that the Fire Department is updating to use as a training center.

**Bullitt Park**

Mr. Lawson said that we saved money by using our crews during really cold days to tear out the interior of the former field house at Bullitt Park. He said that after we removed the fixtures, the women's restroom walls were left intact to make an 8 x 22 feet storage room. He said the old locker room is about 42 feet long and 22 feet wide. He said we plan to take part of a wall out of the old men's room to make a hallway that will be part of the new men's restroom. The current plan is to install two water fountains, put up a fake stone wall four feet high around the room, and wrap the remaining wall in Union action plays from past games. The plan is to drop the

ceiling 3-4 inches to allow for LED lighting, and we will install rubber flooring. He noted a couple of Eagle Scouts have asked about doing projects for the Town. He said we may ask them to make benches for the new locker room.

Mr. Lawson said our go-to electrician, Ray Lane, has been out with COVID-19 so progress has been delayed on the soccer field and concession stand.

### **Fishing Pier at Frog Level**

He said we have placed rocks at the handicapped fishing pier at Frog Level to help prevent erosion on the bank.

### **Shopping Center**

Mr. Lawson said the Wal-Mart Shopping Center has a new owner. He said he is very happy about the progress he expects to see happen there.

### **Business Challenge**

He said the Business Challenge meetings are going well. Weather forced them to cancel one meeting but they made it up last night. He encouraged Council members to attend and meet the attendees.

### **Westmoreland Building**

Mr. Lawson said there are some people interested in buying the Westmoreland Building who have a couple of interesting ideas of how to use the building. He said they have made an offer to the owners and are waiting on a response.

### **Police Department**

Mr. Lawson said there was a pursuit of a stolen truck in Town last night. He commended Chief Hamm for stopping the vehicle on the exit before it got on Town streets. Mr. Lawson said we are still trying to fill vacant positions in the Police Department.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

## **AGENDA ITEM 6**

### **COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Councilman Bloomer invited everyone to their Grand Opening Saturday for his wife's new business – 404 Café & Creamery. He added it has been stressful trying to get everything ready to open.

Councilman Hughes thanked the employees and Amanda and her staff. He said he is glad Steve Hamm is ok after his altercation with the stolen truck and hopes for progress in staffing in his department. He congratulated Turk Hollinger on his retirement. He sent a plea to residents to get vaccinated and to do all they can to protect themselves and others.

Vice-Mayor Bailey said the 404 Café & Creamery is great, and thanked Steve Hamm and the Police Department.

Mayor Johnson commended Chief Hamm for his actions during the police chase and said he hated to lose Turk Hollinger. He thanked employees for all they do.

**AGENDA ITEM 7  
ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned 6:50 pm.**

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Minutes Recorded & Transcribed by  
Amanda L. Hawkins – Town Clerk/Treasurer