

**AGENDA ITEM 4
COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

No Comments

**AGENDA ITEM 5
GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. Approval of minutes of Council Workshop (Electronic) of January 5, 2021.
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting (Electronic) of January 12, 2021.
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- c. Departmental Reports for the month of January 2021.
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Gilley, that the General Order of Business be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

**AGENDA ITEM 6
TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Jon Broskey said he has no additional information to update from last week's Project Report. Mr. Johnson asked about the flags that were out on 9th St wondering if they were looking for a leak. Mr. Broskey stated that was where they had a flow monitor as they were getting a higher flow than normal. He said they have put in some dye but did not receive many results back so they will be going back when it dries up and we have warmer weather for smoke testing.

**AGENDA ITEM 7
TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****a. Budget Amendment – HIDTA Grant (January to June 2021)**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a budget amendment increasing general fund and revenues and expenses \$21, 075.50 for the HIDTA Grant Award period of January 2021 to June 2021.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Gilley, that Council approves the Budget Amendment – HIDTA Grant (January to June 2021). Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney
Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

**b. COVID-19 & Projects Update
Covid-19**

Mr. Lawson said he would like to thank Amanda Hawkins for getting his second dose of the Covid-19 Vaccine scheduled.

Mutual Co-Work Space/ Mutual Building Apartments

Mr. Lawson said the first layer of paint put on the floor in Mutual Co-Workspace has peeled up but the paint company is helping us find a solution to the problem. Mr. Lawson said this would delay the planned opening a little. He said the pavement had to be cut into again to allow for a bigger drain pipe that is needed to control the storm water. Some small gravel had gotten into one of the existing pipes and stopped it up. Mr. Lawson said the project is moving along upstairs as sheetrock will start going up this week.

At the Mayor's request today they rode throughout the area designated for the proposed Old Dominion Power (ODP) transmission lines that will connect two substations within Big Stone Gap. He said three citizens he spoke with opposed the project. Mr. Lawson stated that we are nowhere near scheduling a public hearing at this point. He recommended Council gather questions or concerns about the project and return the request to the Planning Commission. He said that if any Council members would like to go around the project area, he would be glad to take them.

Football Season

Mr. Lawson said spoke with Union High School (UHS) regarding how football season will be handled this year as it starts February 22nd. Everything inside the gates will be controlled by Wise County School Board and UHS. The current regulation calls for 2 attendees per player on both teams be admitted through the gates. A UHS representative will have a list of those names at the gate. If a name is not on the list, they will not get in the gate. Mr. Lawson said we are going to use our large inflatable movie screen to show the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) presentation like a drive-in movie at the over-flow parking lot for the hospital at the bottom of the hill. Our Parks and Recreation Department will be coordinating this. Mr. Lawson said we have also talked about doing the same for the basketball tournament games if Union is successful enough to get there. Mr. Lawson said we would also show the NFHS presentation in the bay area of the Visitor Center and invite the senior citizens and handicapped to this location. He asked Council for approval to purchase a banner that says UHS Sports sponsored by the Town of Big Stone Gap and Ballad Health.

Miscellaneous

Mr. Lawson said he had some investors coming to town tomorrow at 9 am to look at some buildings in town. He is going to share a video, showing the journey of before he got here up till now showing our progress. Mr. Lawson said this is something he has been working on for a while. He said Ked Meade put this together and did a great job with it.

**AGENDA ITEM 8
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No report given.

**AGENDA ITEM 9
COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Nancy Bailey said she got very teary eyed with the presentation and she wishes Mr. Lawson the best of luck with his investors tomorrow. She said it truly represents what our town is and what has happened in the last 5 years. Ms. Bailey praised Ked Meade and his wonderful photography. She said she had a citizen contact her this week about the traffic speeding on

Wood Ave in the Southern where the speed limit is 25, wondering if another sign could be added stating speed limit is 25 mph.

Bobby Bloomer said for everyone to stay safe.

Kent Gilley said the video was great! He wanted to thank all the town crews and employees and for everyone stay safe.

Tyler Hughes agreed the video looked great and he hoped everything goes well tomorrow. He said it captured the evolution of Big Stone Gap that has happened in the last few years. He also stated he shares in some of the concerns about the ODP project.

Crystal Lyke said Steve and Ked did a really good job on the video and for everyone to stay safe.

Aaron McKinney hoped all goes well tomorrow. He thanked town crews, adding the weather had been bad but Spring is coming. He said for everyone to stay safe and well.

Gary Johnson said if anyone wanted to go around the area of the ODP project to see what is going on just let him know. The video is great, just tremendous. He wished Stephen Lawson good luck tomorrow and wanted everyone to be safe.

AGENDA ITEM 10

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Bailey, that the meeting be adjourned. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.

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