

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

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
505 E. 5TH STREET, SOUTH
BIG STONE GAP, VA**

May 7, 2019

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. 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

Those Absent: Hon. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor
 Hon. Robert Bloomer, Councilman

AGENDA ITEM 2

REVIEW OF MINUTES

Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop on April 2, 2019 and the Regular Council Meeting of April 9, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 3

TOWN ENGINEER’S REPORT

System-Wide Water Loss Study

Mr. McElroy said that the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) has approved the System-Wide Water Loss Study the Town submitted. He said it will probably be July before we receive any funding offer for the Phase I-B application we submitted with the Study.

He said we continue to work with Rural Development to obtain funding for the Phase I-A Project.

Rt. 610 & Shelby Avenue Phase II Waterline Replacement Project

Mr. McElroy said that, with the Preliminary Engineer’s Report (PER) for the System-Wide Water Loss Study being approved by VDH, we obtained approval of the construction permit for the Rt. 610 & Shelby Avenue Ph. II Project. Once we get approval for the bid permit from VDH, we can advertise for bids, hopefully by the end of next week.

Fisher Road and Shelby Avenue Phase I Waterline Replacement Project

Mr. McElroy said that VDH will do a final inspection of the files. Once we receive approval we can start close-out procedures.

Cadet and W 8th Street Waterline Replacement Project

Mr. McElroy said that VDH will also do a final inspection of the pump station at Cadet, so they will try to close out the Fisher Road & Shelby Avenue Project and the Cadet and W 8th Street Project at the same time.

Big Cherry Access Road and Security Improvements Project

Mr. McElroy said that we are waiting on the contractor to send us information on the poles the cameras and solar panels will be mounted on. Once we approve the plans for the poles, this project will be finished very quickly.

AGENDA ITEM 4**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****a. Joyce Palmer – Lonesome Pine School & Heritage Center**

Ms. Palmer said she would like Council's help to add on to their museum. She said it is growing to the point they are now open Wednesday thru Saturday and have 13-15 visitors a day.

She said they have developed a five-year plan that includes:

- gaining independent status from the Lonesome Pine Arts & Crafts organization, which they have already accomplished
- establishment of their own 501-c-3 status, which has already been done
- plans to build an addition to store archives at a cost of \$80,000
 - add an area to allow local teachers to hold classes on local history
 - establish an area for visitors to use WIFI for genealogy research
 - plans to coordinate with MECC to explore research options
- a grant application to the Slemm Foundation
- plans to establish an endowment that will allow the interest to be used to run the school

Ms. Palmer said they have raised \$36,000 towards the expansion, adding that the school runs totally on donations. She said that their insurance liability is \$918 annually, but that will increase with the new addition.

Ms. Palmer asked that an annual donation of \$2,000 to the Lonesome Pine School & Heritage Center be added to the Town's budget to cover the cost of their liability insurance and to help support the school.

b. Resolution 08-2019 – System-Wide Water Loss Project – Phase I-B

Mr. Lawson said this resolution is to amend Resolution 04-2019 to increase the amount of the application to VDH for the System-Wide Water Loss Study and Improvements Project Phase I-B by \$20,000, bringing the total application to \$240,000.

c. Ordinance 09-2019 – Sale of Property

Mr. Lawson asked Council to set a public hearing for this ordinance to sell Lots 1-13 bordering Dacota Avenue West.

d. Budget Amendment – DTF HIDTA Grant for additional equipment purchase

Mr. Lawson said this amendment to the FY2018-19 Budget is to add \$4,790 to revenue and expenses for a HIDTA Grant for the Drug Task Force.

e. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson said the Mutual Building Project is on hold until the Department of Historic Resources makes a decision about the ceiling on the first floor. He said we are still trying to find a solution to water getting into the building. We have raised drains and installed an additional discharge inlet behind the post office, and we have several quotes on paving the parking lot.

He said that Gary Harris and Jillian Bullock are working on getting the flowers ready to put out downtown.

The Wise County Economic Forum will be next Wednesday, May 15th, at UVA Wise. The Wise County Administrator will be at a Manager's Meeting next week at which Mr. Lawson will suggest an annual event for every Town to participate in to encourage unity.

The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) will stock Big Cherry Lake on either May 21st or the 23rd. Mr. Lawson said they will ask if certified Triploid Grass Carp can be introduced into the lake to help control the coontail problem.

Kid's Fishing Day is May 18th, so the lake will be stocked with trout on May 15th. The gate to the lake will be closed from Wednesday, May 15th, until the Kid's Fishing Day event is over on Saturday so the kids will have the best chance of catching a fish.

Mr. Lawson said that he, Glenn Bishop, Matthew Bright, and Amanda Hawkins will be attending the Locally Administered Projects (LAP) meeting hosted by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) tomorrow. At this meeting VDOT will review all their grants available and how to apply.

Shawnee Avenue Bridge replacement will be advertised for bids on July 4, 2020. Mr. Lawson said we have worked with Lane Engineering to send a proposal for utility relocations for 200 linear feet of 8" water lines to be done by VDOT at their own cost.

Mr. Lawson said the Soap Box Derby had 12 cars to race last Saturday. Ironworks won again this year. He said there wasn't a very good turnout because of the anticipation of bad weather and other events going on. He said that next year we will try to get the other event organizers to keep that date open so we're not competing for spectators. He noted that the people who do come have a really fun time.

Mr. Lawson said that we have received three proposals for engineering services for the Greenbelt Project Phase V. They have scored those proposals and will invite the top two to make a presentation before the committee, who will choose the Project Engineer for this next phase of the Greenbelt.

Nancy Bailey has been chosen as a representative on the Virginia Municipal League (VML) Legislative Committee. They will have two meetings in Richmond and one in Roanoke. He said this is the first time that someone from Big Stone Gap has sat on this committee.

Mr. Lawson also mentioned that VML is reaching out to Council members statewide to serve on one of their six Policy Committees that reports to the Legislative Committee: Community & Economic Development Committee, Environmental Quality Committee, Finance Committee, General Law Committee, Transportation Committee, and the Human Development & Education Committee. Mr. Lawson said that if any Council members are interested in serving on any of these Policy Committees, please let him know.

AGENDA ITEM 5 COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Budget/Finance/Audit Committee

Mr. Hughes said the BFA Committee met on April 29, 2019 to review the proposed FY2019-20 Budget. He reviewed the numbers for the different funds.

b. Public Utilities Committee

Mr. Hughes said the Public Utilities Committee met on April 25, 2019 to review the FY2019-20 proposed water and sewer rates. As part of the requirements by VDH for providing funding for the Cadet and W 8th Street Waterline Replacement Project, the Town must raise water and sewer rates by at least 2 percent this year.

The Committee reviewed the proposed rate increases that includes a 2% increase in water rates for in-town and out-of-town customers and a 3% increase in sewer rates for in-town and out-of-town customers. They also discussed the establishment of a Sewer Improvement Fund (SIF). The initial deposit into the SIF will come from an existing Certificate of Deposit, with additional funds coming from designating 5% of monthly collected sewer charges to this account.

c. Planning Commission

The meeting was rescheduled for Monday, May 13, 2019.

AGENDA ITEM 6 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Gilley said an elderly citizen approached him with a problem with a neighbor's many dogs causing a lot of noise. Chief Hamm said that situation has hopefully been taken care of.

Mr. Hughes thanked the employees for their hard work on some recent great events like the Easter Egg Hunt, Derby Days, and the MEOC Walkathon.

Mayor Johnson said that Derby Days is a great event and encouraged Council members to enlist local businesses to get involved and either sponsor or enter a soapbox car next year. He thanked Stephen Lawson and all the Town employees for their hard work. He thanked Joyce Palmer for giving her presentation tonight.

AGENDA ITEM 7

CLOSED SESSION – SECTION 2.2-3711(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by McKinney, that Council enter a Closed Session in accordance with Section 2.2-3711(A)(2) of the Code of Virginia, for the discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer, Hughes

Motion by Gilley, seconded by Lyke, that Council re-convene into Open Session. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer, Hughes

Ms. Hawkins read the Certification of Closed Meeting. Roll call vote resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer, Hughes

**AGENDA ITEM 8
ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned 7:38 pm.

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