

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

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

**December 8, 2020**

**6:30 PM**

**\*As a result of the State of Emergency declared by Virginia Governor Ralph Northam on March 12, 2020 by Executive Order No. 51, by Wise County Virginia Executive Michael Hatfield on March 19, 2020 and by the Council of the Town of Big Stone Gap Virginia effective March 20, 2020, due to the public health emergency resulting from the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the public meeting scheduled for December 8, 2020 at 6:30 pm, is to be conducted electronically as authorized by Resolution 16-2020 adopted on September 8, 2020.**

**\*This Electronic Meeting was conducted via the GO TO MEETING platform and was made available to Council Members, Town Staff, and the public by conference call. All votes called for were roll call votes.**

**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 L. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney  
Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**INVOCATION by Mayor Gary Johnson.**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA**

**Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Bailey, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of December 8, 2020 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

No comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 5****GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of minutes of Council Workshop (Electronic) of November 3, 2020.**  
**Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- b. **Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting (Electronic) of November 10, 2020.**  
**Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- c. **Departmental Reports for the month of November, 2020.**  
**Recommended Action: Received and filed.**
- d. **Treasurer's Reports for the month of October, 2020.**  
**Recommended Action: Received and filed.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Motion by Bailey, seconded by Bloomer, 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**

Mr. Broskey said he had no updates to give, but he would be happy to answer any questions. He wished everyone a safe and Merry Christmas from The Lane Group.

Mr. Lawson said the Town appreciates all the efforts that Lane Engineering put into the Greenbelt-in-Lights this year as well as all work they do for us throughout the year.

**AGENDA ITEM 7****TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Budget Amendment – Virginia Tobacco Commission Grant - Mutual Co-Workspace**  
Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this amendment to increase revenue and expenses by \$250,263 to add a VA Tobacco Commission Grant for the Mutual Building Co-Workspace Project.

**Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a budget amendment to increase General Fund revenues and expenses by \$250,263 for a Virginia Tobacco Commission Grant for the Mutual Building Co-Workspace Project. Motion resulted as follows:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

- b. **FY2020-21 Big Stone Gap Food Bank Donation**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this amendment to approve a one-time increase of the Town's donation to the Big Stone Gap Food Bank from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for this fiscal year.

**Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Bailey, that Council approve a one-time increase of the donation to the Big Stone Gap Food Bank from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for FY20-21. Motion resulted as follows:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**c. COVID-19 & Projects Update**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to set a Special Council Meeting (live in-person meeting) for Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm in Council Chambers for discussion of a real property transaction.

**Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Gilley, that Council authorize a Special Council Meeting for discussion of a real property transaction to be held in the Council Chambers at the Municipal Office Building on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 6:30 pm . Motion resulted as follows:**

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: None**

**COVID-19**

Mr. Lawson said that COVID-19 cases continue to rise. Wise County has 1,383 reported cases with 74 hospitalizations and 50 deaths so far; Lee County has 1051 cases with 50 hospitalizations and 15 deaths; Scott County has 914 cases with 59 hospitalizations and 19 deaths; and the City of Norton has 100 cases with 5 hospitalizations and 0 deaths. The Virginia Department of Health released a statement saying that close to 500,000 vaccine doses will be shipped to Virginia by the end of December and will be administered to health care personnel and long-term care residents first.

**Mutual Building Co-Workspace**

Mr. Lawson said that they are still working on the floors at the Mutual Building Co-Workspace while they wait on supplies for the restrooms and the HVAC system. He said that they still have some boards to be burned and stained for the trim so they will hold a couple of ‘volunteer days’ if anyone is interested in helping.

**Bullitt Park Multi-Purpose Building**

He said the trusses are in on the Bullitt Park Multi-Purpose Building and we hope to get those up by the end of the week. There is still more block work to be done also.

**Events**

Mr. Lawson said the Fox House is having a fundraiser and will be hosting a Plate Supper tomorrow evening. The take-out dinner costs \$20 and the menu includes Cranberry Chicken, Twice-Baked Potato, Apple Salad, Sunshine Carrots, Rolls, and Bread Pudding for dessert.

He announced that a retirement dinner for Glenn Bishop will be held in Carnes Gym on December 10<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. We will be practicing social distancing and each department will sit together. He invited Council members to come join us to wish Glenn a happy retirement.

Mr. Lawson said that our Employee Christmas Luncheon will be held on Thursday, December 17<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm and everyone is invited to come.

He said that the Greenbelt-in-Lights tours began on Saturday with 72 people riding the trail that night. All of the time slots were booked up for the evening. As of right now, all of our Friday and Saturday slots are booked up through December but we do have some openings on Thursdays. If we need to, he said we would extend the rides until 10 pm on Fridays and Saturdays to accommodate everyone.

**AGENDA ITEM 8  
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No committee reports.

Mayor Johnson asked Ms. Lyke about the progress on Council's display on the Greenbelt In Lights. Ms. Lyke said she has been busy at work and hasn't been able to give Council's display the time necessary to get it done yet but she is ready to get started on it now. She has contacted Parks and Recreation about getting the display cut out tomorrow. She and Mayor Johnson discussed how to proceed and agreed to talk soon.

**AGENDA ITEM 9  
COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Mrs. Bailey thanked everyone for all their hard work on the Greenbelt In Lights displays. She said she received a call today from Rev. Sandra Jones who still wants to meet with Stephen Lawson and Nancy about putting benches in the cemeteries.

Mr. Bloomer asked everyone to stay safe and wear masks. He mentioned that he has seen a lot of kids on the Greenbelt who were messing with the displays and he brought it to Chief Hamm's attention. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. Gilley thanked all the Town employees and encouraged everyone to stay safe.

Mr. Hughes thanked all the Town crews and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He said he is looking forward to seeing everyone in person at the Special Council Meeting next week.

Ms. Lyke mentioned that the Virginia Department of Health website has information on the statistics of the COVID-19 virus for our area. She wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

Mr. McKinney thanked everyone for their work on the Greenbelt – it looks very good.

Mayor Johnson thanked everyone for their comments. He expressed his hopes that Bobby Bloomer's mother will get well soon from the COVID-19 virus. He noted that the food bank and churches are handing out food to anyone who needs it. He thanked all the Town crews for the great job they do and hoped everyone has a wonderful Christmas.

**AGENDA ITEM 10  
ADJOURNMENT**

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

**Roll Call Vote:**

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

**Nays: None                      Abstain: None                      Absent: None**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.**

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