

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

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

**June 7, 2022**

**6:30 PM**

**AGENDA ITEM 1**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Vice-Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order.

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

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**PUBLIC HEARING – Ordinance 10-2022 – FY 2022-2023 Budget**

Vice-Mayor Bailey recessed the Council Workshop and opened the public hearing to hear comments on the proposed FY 2022-2023 Budget. Hearing no comments, Vice-Mayor Bailey closed the public hearing and reconvened the Council Workshop.

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**REVIEW OF MINUTES**

**Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop of May 3, 2022, the Regular Council Meeting of May 10, 2022, the Public Utilities Committee Meeting on May 25, 2022, the Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting on May 25, 2022, and the Special Council Meeting on May 25, 2022.**

No comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

**Greenbelt Phase V**

Mr. Broskey said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) asked for additional support for our request for additional funding for the Greenbelt Phase V Project. He said we submitted a letter to them providing more information and are waiting to hear back from them.

### **System Wide Water Loss Project**

Mr. Broskey said we received comments regarding stream crossings from the US Fish and Wildlife Service asking for a native species survey. He said that survey is time-sensitive to the construction phase of the project so we have requested a waiver until we get closer to construction so we don't go beyond the timelines.

## **AGENDA ITEM 5**

### **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

#### **a. Ordinance 10-2022 – FY2022-23 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Lawson said this ordinance is necessary to pass the next fiscal year's budget.

#### **b. Proclamation – Fringe**

Mr. Lawson said this proclamation is to welcome Fringe as a new business in Town. He commented that it looks totally different inside the new building and things were really hopping when he and Vice-Mayor Bailey were there for their ribbon-cutting ceremony.

#### **c. Parade Permit July 4th**

Mr. Lawson said this permit is for our annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>. He said we will have something going on every night of the week leading up to the 4<sup>th</sup>.

#### **d. Projects Update**

#### **4<sup>th</sup> of July**

Mr. Lawson said we have some people coming in from out-of-town for a Disc Golf tournament on Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. He said we will give them a \$5.00 wrist band to encourage them to come back for the Fourth festivities on the following Monday.

### **Virginia Municipal League**

Mr. Lawson said the VML Conference is scheduled for the weekend before the Blue Highway Fest this year. He said that Vice-Mayor Bailey is on the Legislative Committee so she needs to attend, but he said he would need most of the Council members to assist with the festival preparations that week, but if any wished to attend the conference please let Amanda know.

### **Football Field Sprigs**

Mr. Lawson said we have sprigs for the football field for a cost of around \$5,000, which is also enough to include part of the new baseball field we will put at Frog Level to get some good grass growing there. He said the County usually helps with getting them here but this year they have some issues with retread tires on their trucks and are reluctant to go as far as Charles City to get the sprigs. He said the delivery price is \$3,140, which is almost the cost of the sprigs, so we are asking for assistance from volunteers to go get them.

### **Downtown Improvements**

Mr. Lawson said we will be improving the sidewalks in front of the Dizney building, Miners Park, and the Moon Dog Brewing Company. He said at Miners Park there will be concrete with a band of bricks along the edges, with a line of bricks inside the park where the miners statue stands. He said we are ordering new lights for the park to match the lights we have downtown. He noted we have contracted Quality Painting to paint all the poles downtown.

**Bullitt Park**

Mr. Lawson said he also asked Quality Painting for a quote to paint the home bleacher railings and to put new vinyl fencing coating around the top. He said we took the fencing down and put new sod between the old restrooms and the new building, and are waiting on the asphalt to be laid. Powell Paving is doing our street paving this year but they will start at Bullitt Park with that section of asphalt. He said the blocks on the home side locker room are back in, but we still have painting to do there. He noted the wall material is in and the HVAC is installed except for the drops, and Union High School is handling the wrap.

**Tour de Crackers Neck**

Mr. Lawson said he met with Steve Hamm today to discuss traffic issues with the race. He noted we can't do the normal escort for the race that we have in the past due to a staffing shortage. He said they will meet with the race coordinators to make sure they know to take extra care.

**Little League Field**

Mr. Lawson said the backstop boards came in today and some are already up. He said we will install a piece of flat metal along the back of the boards to reinforce them. He said we are still looking at ways to improve the backstops.

**Council Workshop July 5<sup>th</sup>**

Mr. Lawson said that the Council Workshop in July will be on the 5<sup>th</sup>. He said we have a lot of volunteers and staff that will be working a very long day on the 4<sup>th</sup> and into the morning of the 5<sup>th</sup> and asked if the workshop can be cancelled for July.

**Employee Gift**

Mr. Lawson said if we have any funds left over at the end of this budget year we may consider gifting employees with a gas card in their paychecks.

**AGENDA ITEM 6****COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Planning Commission**

Planning Commission member and Council Representative Kent Gilley said the Commission met on June 6<sup>th</sup> and discussed updating the Comprehensive Plan. They questioned whether they needed to do another Request for Proposal (RFP) for a company to do the update. Mr. Lawson said we bid that out last year but took no action on the bids we received. Mr. Broskey said those bids could be accepted and reviewed again.

**AGENDA ITEM 7****COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Councilman Gilley thanked all the Town employees. He commented that the traffic light at East 5<sup>th</sup> St S at PVNB had a red light and a green arrow at the same time, which he had not seen before.

Councilman Hughes thanked all Town employees and congratulated all the new businesses in Town. He said the Crooked Road will send all their staff to assist with the Blue Highway Fest.

Vice-Mayor Bailey noted the traffic light at 5<sup>th</sup> and Shawnee has a red arrow and people are running that light all the time.

Councilman Hughes also thanked Town employees for their help with the Gathering in the Gap last weekend. Mr. Lawson said the Soapbox Derby went really good this year too. He said a little girl who won her division was overheard saying her brother had a lot of trophies and now she had one too. He said that Pennington Gap had a car in the race; he and Pennington's Parks & Recreation Director Tammy Grimes talked about doing a night race in Pennington Gap to precede our Soapbox Derby the next morning to encourage more people to enter the races.

Mr. Lawson also noted that This & That has expanded by adding a bakery, and is now supplying Moon Dog Pizza with desserts. He noted this came out of the Business Challenge that the Town sponsored, and is going so well Tracy has hired an additional employee to help keep up with the orders. Vice-Mayor Bailey commented that since the Business Challenge she has noticed that participating business owners have been taking time out of their workday to show up for other business's grand openings, which is so impressive. She also thanked the Police Department and Town employees for their help with the Gathering in the Gap.

Councilman Gilley thanked the Police Department and all Town employees for their help with the Kids Fishing Day. He said they made about 106 hot dogs and around 50-100 smore's. He said Parks & Rec gave away two kayaks and several fishing poles and tackle boxes to the kids and overall it was a great event.

## **AGENDA ITEM 8 ADJOURNMENT**

**Meeting adjourned 6:59 pm.**

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