

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

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

June 14, 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

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

Those Absent: Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
 Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

AGENDA ITEM 2

INVOCATION by Rev. Tim Robinson of Trinity United Methodist Church.

AGENDA ITEM 3

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4

ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Gilley, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of June 14, 2022 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

AGENDA ITEM 5

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

No comments.

AGENDA ITEM 6**GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of minutes of Council Workshop of May 3, 2022.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. **Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 10, 2022.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- c. **Approval of minutes of Public Utilities Committee Meeting of May 25, 2022**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- d. **Approval of minutes of Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting of May 25, 2022**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- e. **Approval of minutes of Special Council Meeting of May 25, 2022**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- f. **Departmental Reports for the month of May 2022.**
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, Johnson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

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

Mr. Broskey said he, Town staff, and Town management met with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Abingdon field office to discuss membrane plants being placed at the Water Treatment Plant. Director of Utilities Gary Hampton coordinated the meeting and Mr. Broskey said it went very well. He said DEQ was very receptive to our proposal. He said this will be about a \$2 million project, and we have submitted a grant application to the Virginia Department of Health (VDH), but he noted that VDH has received 187 applications for \$1.1 million so a lot of people will get turned down this year. He said we will keep trying to find funding.

Mr. Lawson added that we proposed to use a smaller membrane tank to fill and put at Big Cherry for recreational purposes. Mr. Broskey said VDH was open and supportive of that as well.

AGENDA ITEM 8**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

- a. **Ordinance 10-2022 – FY 2022-2023 Budget**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this ordinance to adopt the FY 2022-23 Budget.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Gilley, that Council adopt Ordinance 10-2022 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, appropriating funds for the fiscal year and placing levies upon all real estate, personal property, bank stock, licenses, fees, consumer utility services, meals tax, vehicle license tax, cigarette tax, transient occupancy tax, and all other levies as previously imposed or modified herein. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

b. Proclamation - Fringe

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this proclamation welcoming Fringe as a new business in Town.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Bailey, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Sara Botts, owner of Fringe, located at 11 East 5th Street South in Big Stone Gap. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

c. Parade Permit – July 4th

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this permit for the annual 4th of July Parade on Monday, July 4th, at 4:00 pm.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Bailey, that Council approve a parade permit for the July 4th Festivities on Monday, July 4, 2022 beginning at 4:00 pm. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

d. Council Workshop for July

Mr. Lawson asked Council to cancel the July Council Workshop scheduled for July 5th because of the Fourth of July festivities.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Gilley, that Council cancel the July Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, July 5, 2022 at 6:30 pm. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

e. Projects Update**Youth Sports Camp**

Mr. Lawson said the East Stone Gap Youth Camp is this week and they have doubled their enrollment this year. He estimated that about 200 kids are participating. The final day will be on June 17th at Bullitt Park. He said they will be doing karate, basketball, pickle ball, archery, and other activities. He said some new residents of Big Stone Gap enrolled their kids and they've commented that they have made a lot of new friends.

Football Field Sprigs

Mr. Lawson said the sprigs for the football field are arriving on Friday at Bullitt Park and we will get them spread as soon as possible. He said the Peanut Football league made a \$1,000 donation toward the sprigs.

Auditors

Mr. Lawson said we only received one audit proposal this year, which was from Rodefer Moss, so we will contract them to do our audit for the next three years. They have been our auditors for several years. He noted that the price is going up \$5,000 with the new contract.

Fencing

Mr. Lawson said the fencing for Bullitt Park has been ordered and will arrive Friday so the contractor will begin work immediately. He said we did get the price down from \$12,000 to \$9,800. He said we will have the fence up by July 4th and will try to get the asphalt/concrete work done as well if we can.

Sweeper Truck

Mr. Lawson said we have found a Sweeper Truck and a Dump Truck for around \$51,000 for both. He said we are looking for a leaf attachment. He said we will use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purchase.

Increase in Costs

Mr. Lawson said the cost of chemicals at the Water Treatment Plant went up about \$1,500 this week. He noted this is the third consecutive month with a \$1,000+ increase in those supplies.

Armory

Mr. Lawson said we will meet our goal of getting all of our stuff out of the Armory by the end of June. He said the shipping container at the Armory that we use to store our fireworks is not in good enough shape to move so we have found a new container for \$6,500.

Virginia Department of Health

Mr. Lawson said we have been told by VDH not to expect any grant funding this year. He said they are focusing on severe problems like lead pipes, etc. and our projects are not as urgent.

Art Murals

Mr. Lawson said we have a final design to put inside the Municipal Complex. The Art Department at Union High School will do a mural on the wall to the left as you come into the lobby.

Industrial Revitalization Fund

Mr. Lawson said the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCH) are not anticipating having as much Industrial Revitalization Funds to distribute this year. He noted these funds are what we used to renovate the Mutual Building. He said we can use these funds for acquisition so he suggested Council members look around Town to see if something looks like a good prospect. He said the Town would be responsible for whatever renovations were needed so it's important to pick the right location so we can make it a home run.

Miners Park

Mr. Lawson said brick and concrete work will begin on Friday on the walkway thru Miners Park. He said the trees will not be cut until the UHS Art Department is ready to start on the mural on the side of the Fringe building. He said we are looking for funds to try to repair the side of both Pat Murphy's and Carolyn Bloomer's buildings on Wood Avenue in the hopes of getting a mural on the sides of those two structures.

Employment Applications

Mr. Lawson said the Town continues to interview candidates for openings in Public Works, Admin Office, and the Police Department.

VML Conference

Mr. Lawson asked if anyone wants to attend the Virginia Municipal League Conference in October. He said Nancy will be attending as she is on the Legislative Committee. He added that he will need everyone's help with the Blue Highway Fest the weekend following the conference.

AGENDA ITEM 9**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Planning Commission Council Representative Kent Gilley said the Planning Commission is asking that the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Comprehensive Plan be revisited to update the Plan.

AGENDA ITEM 10**COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Councilman Bloomer said Brandon Maggard will be playing music at the 404 Café and Creamery Saturday night. Mr. Lawson said it is nice to hear music playing all across Town and hopes everyone will coordinate to have different styles playing at each venue.

Councilman Gilley thanked Bobby for donating all the wieners for the Kids Fishing Day. He said it was a great event and both Stephen Lawson and Parks & Rec did a great job.

Vice-Mayor Bailey mentioned that at the Gathering in the Gap Dave Eggar said he was so impressed with the Town's appearance and all the events we have going on.

Mayor Johnson said Ked Meade is doing a great job in reaching out using social media. He mentioned the Tour de Crackers Neck race coming up Saturday. Chief Hamm said the riders will have a police escort to Union High School. Mayor Johnson said all the participants are used to traveling on the highway. Mayor Johnson said the Town looks great.

AGENDA ITEM 11**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Johnson

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Hughes, Lyke, McKinney

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm.

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