

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

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

**August 9, 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  
                              Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman

Staff Present:        Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager  
                              Ms. Amanda L. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer  
                              Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney  
                              Lt. Eddie Phillips, Police Department

Those Absent:        Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman  
                              Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

**AGENDA ITEM 2**

**INVOCATION by Mayor Gary Johnson.**

**AGENDA ITEM 3**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**AGENDA ITEM 4**

**ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA**

**Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of August 9, 2022 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:**

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

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

**AGENDA ITEM 5  
COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS**

No comments.

**AGENDA ITEM 6  
GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of July 12, 2022.  
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- b. **Departmental Reports for the month of July 2022.  
Recommended Action: Received and filed.**

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

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

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

**Greenbelt Phase V & Big Cherry Trails Projects**

Mr. Broskey said we have permission to bid the Greenbelt Phase V Project and the Big Cherry Trails Projects. He said we have already received three requests for the plans for both projects so it is looking good.

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

**a. Proclamation – Tighten Up Stay Beautiful**

Mr. Lawson presented to Council for their approval this proclamation recognizing April Wallace as owner of Tighten Up Stay Beautiful located at 20 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.

**Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a proclamation recognizing April Wallace, owner of Tighten Up Stay Beautiful located at 20 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street South.  
Motion resulted as follows:**

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

**b. Resolution 12-2022 – VDOT SmartScale Project Application**

Mr. Lawson presented to Council for their approval this resolution to approve an application to LENOWISCO for the Gilley Avenue Turn Lanes Project.

**Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve Resolution 12-2022 being a resolution approving an application be submitted by the LENOWISCO Planning District Commission for the Gilley Avenue Turn Lanes and Access Management Improvements project. Motion resulted as follows:**

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

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

**c. Fire Department By-Laws**

Mr. Lawson said this issue will need to be tabled until the next meeting as we are waiting on additional information from the Fire Department.

**d. Projects Update**

**Police Department**

Mr. Lawson said we have hired another certified officer, proving our strategy with the new budget is working. He says all of our new hires say they are happy to be working here.

**Visitor Center Events**

Mr. Lawson said the Sling-Shot event was successful, commenting that the participants love to visit this area. He said an auction was held at the end of the night to raise money for flood victims of Eastern Kentucky and raised \$10,000. He said a flood is one of the worst disasters that can happen to people and suggested Council think hard about what the Town can do to help.

**Town Projects**

Mr. Lawson said both the Big Cherry Trails and Greenbelt Phase V Projects are moving along. He said the work at Bullitt Park is coming together and the park should be ready and look great for the first high school home football game of the season.

**Blue Highway Fest**

Mr. Lawson said the festival is moving along. He said there have been some concerns about the size of the buses and other equipment so we are considering making another entrance near the ball fields to make it easier for tractor-trailers to move in and out.

**Eagle Scout Projects**

Mr. Lawson said we received a letter outlining what our local Eagle Scouts (Troop 604) have done as their special project:

Benjamin Palmer Hersel constructed six benches for the baseball fields at Bullitt Park.

Christopher Charles Moore worked with Union Primary School to construct dumpster pads for bear-proof dumpsters.

Chadwick Grant Wilson worked with the Town to construct three steel benches for Oakview Cemetery, now known as the Joseph Garfield Long, Sr. Memorial Cemetery.

Daniel Steven Goldman worked with the Trinity United Methodist Church to construct three outdoor community pantries.

Mr. Lawson said he and Mayor Johnson will send a letter to Troop 604 commending the accomplishments of these young men and expressing our appreciation for their efforts.

### **Town Events**

Councilman Bloomer asked about progress on the skate park. Mr. Lawson said a meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at 3 pm. at which time he should learn what bids have been put out and the status of the project.

Councilman Gilley asked how many Sling-Shot vehicles we had at the gathering. Mr. Lawson said there were 140 that signed up and they all went different routes throughout the weekend such as Pound, Kentucky, Lee County, Duffield, and Keokee. He said he thought there were about 63 in Town at one time.

Mr. Lawson said there will be a Grand Opening on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm to celebrate Sweet Winks move to a new location at 20 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street South and to welcome Tighten Up Stay Beautiful, which will be located inside Sweet Winks.

### **AGENDA ITEM 9 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

### **AGENDA ITEM 10 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

Councilman Bloomer said he is glad the situation with the Police Department staff is improving and appreciates what they do for the Town.

Vice-Mayor Bailey sent thanks to all the Town employees. She said the Sling-Shot event was great and she received good feedback about their stay at the Quality Inn.

Mayor Johnson said he went to Whitesburg KY after the flooding and it was devastating and asked everyone to remember those victims.

Mr. Lawson added that we have two additions to our Town family - both Officer Robert Smith and Cemetery Foreman Nate Cheek had babies last Friday.

### **AGENDA ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

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

**Meeting adjourned at 6:54 pm.**

---

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