

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

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

November 8, 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. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman

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. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

AGENDA ITEM 2

INVOCATION by Pastor Bud Kilbourne of The Cornerstone House of Prayer

AGENDA ITEM 3

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4

ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of November 8, 2022 be amended to add two proclamations as Item 8d and Item 8e. Motion resulted as follows:

**Ayes: Bailey, Bloomer, Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke
Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: 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 October 11, 2022.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. **Departmental Reports for the month of October 2022.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

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

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

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

In John Broskey's absence, Mr. Lawson reported that Boyd's Construction is completing the last of the paving in Town with just a few road cuts and finishing work remaining. After all is done, we can talk about moving to Big Cherry for work on the trails.

Mr. Lawson said the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) sent us an email accepting the bids we received for the Greenbelt Phase V Project. All the paperwork has been signed and is ready to go to meet Friday's deadline.

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

- a. **Big Stone Gap Fire Department – Approval of Elected Officers**

Mr. Lawson presented Resolution 14-2022 approving the elected officers of the Fire Department.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve Resolution 14-2022 being a resolution approving the elected officers of the Big Stone Gap Fire Department as elected by the fire department membership on October 30, 2022 for a term of 3 years. Motion resulted as follows:

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

- b. **Proclamation – Three Forks Sandwich Company**

Mr. Lawson presented this proclamation for Council's approval recognizing Three Forks Sandwich Company as a new business in Town.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming the Three Forks Sandwich Company and owner Kelsa Gibson located at 409 Clinton Avenue. Motion resulted as follows:

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

c. Proclamation - Starbucks

Mr. Lawson presented this proclamation for Council's approval recognizing Starbucks as a new business in Town located inside Food City.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Starbucks located inside Food City at 603 Wood Avenue East. Motion resulted as follows:

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

d. Proclamation – SWVA Limited Company

Mr. Lawson presented this proclamation for Council's approval recognizing SWVA Limited Company as a new business in Town located in the Shawnee Shopping Center. He said this company provides an education program and assistance for legally growing marijuana products.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming SWVA Limited Company and owner Jacob Kessler located at 315 Shawnee Ave E. Motion resulted as follows:

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

e. Proclamation – Gap Nutrition

Mr. Lawson presented this proclamation for Council's approval recognizing Gap Nutrition as a new business in Town located in the Walmart Shopping Center.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Gap Nutrition and owner Jennifer Garrett located at 1527 Neeley Drive. Motion resulted as follows:

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

f. Parade Permit – Christmas Parade

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve this permit for the Town's annual Christmas Parade on December 1st at 6:00 pm.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a parade permit for the Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday, December 1, 2022 beginning at 6:00 pm at Bullitt Park. Motion resulted as follows:

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

g. Projects Update**Election Day**

Mr. Lawson said the election turnout for today was pretty good - at the beginning of tonight's Council meeting around 750 people had voted in Carnes Gym.

Big Cherry Trails

Mr. Lawson said he will meet with Abe Quesenberry this Thursday about the development at Big Cherry. He said this will be the first step toward creating a committee to advise on the upcoming project

New Police Uniforms

Mr. Lawson said a company from Gray, TN will be coming Thursday to do measurements for uniforms for the Police Department. He said they will bring two choices of top-of-the-line vests for consideration.

Chief Hamm added the grant we received for vest replacement will be a 50% match. He said we are looking at getting new Battle Dress Uniforms (BDU's) for our officers.

Blue Highway Fest

Mr. Lawson said the date we thought was settled for the Blue Highway Fest has changed again. Turns out the Carter Fold has a 50-year event taking place that weekend, so we are again looking for a date, maybe at the end of July or a later date in August.

Upcoming Events

Mr. Lawson quickly ran thru the dates for upcoming events he detailed last week:

- 11/11 - Veteran's Parade – 11:30 am
- 11/12 - SW VA Museum tree-lighting ceremony – 6-8 pm
- 11/12 - Football game – 1 pm (rescheduled from a prior date due to weather)
- 11/12 - SW VA Children's Advocacy Center Gala – Lonesome Pine Country Club
- 11/12 - Holiday Craft Fair – 9-5 pm
- 11/13 - Holiday Craft Fair - 1-5 pm
- 11/14 - Starbucks Grand Opening – 9:30 am
- 11/14 - UHS Grand Opening - Wrestling Building – noon
- 11/14 - Moon Dog soft opening – 1:30
- 11/16 - Gap Nutrition Grand Opening – 11 am
- 11/17 - Employee's Thanksgiving Lunch - noon
- 11/21 - SWVA Limited Company Grand Opening – noon

AGENDA ITEM 9**COMMITTEE REPORTS****a. Planning Commission**

Council Representative Kent Gilley said the Planning Commission did not meet as scheduled. He noted the Special Use Permit request was withdrawn, so that issue will not be on the upcoming agenda.

**AGENDA ITEM 10
COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION**

All Council members thanked all Town employees and wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mayor Johnson said Greenbelt-in-Lights will begin soon so everyone who wants to participate needs to be prepared and get their displays up soon. He said we want this year to be bigger and better!

**AGENDA ITEM 11
ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 pm.

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