

TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP, VIRGINIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

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

June 13, 2023

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
Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

Staff Present: Ms. Amanda L. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer
Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police
Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

Those Absent: Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager

AGENDA ITEM 2

INVOCATION by Mr. Greg Kress of Coffee Shop Worship.

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 June 13, 2023 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Gale Luntsford, President of the Lonesome Pine Arts and Crafts, said that this would be the 60th season for the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. The Drama starts June 23rd with a preshow at 7 pm and the drama beginning at 8pm. Admission is \$15 for adults, groups of ten or more and Seniors is \$10, and children under 6 are admitted free. Ms. Luntsford said a new roof was put on the cabin with supplies donated by Central Supply. They need a new liner for the creek prop and will be looking at fixing it soon. They will be installing a state-of-the-art new sound and light system which has been greatly needed. On June 23rd at 9 am Jim Smith with the Slemp Foundation will be at the theater to present checks to the June Tolliver House, John Fox, Jr. House, and the Trail of the Lonesome Pine. She encouraged Council to attend this event. She said a monetary gift was given by a community member in memory of Barbara Polly. The Lonesome Pine Arts and Crafts board has decided name the theatre The Barbara Polly Theatre to honor Mrs. Polly and her longtime support of the drama. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony on July 7th at 6 pm, she encouraged Council to attend. She also said that they are going to sale brick pavers to replace the sidewalk at the entrance of the Theater. She is asking permission from the Council to make the changes to the Town sidewalk along E Jerome Street S from the June Tolliver House to the end of the sidewalk at Justin Barnette Blvd once the pavers have been sold. She thanked the Council and said she is from Coeburn and resides in Appalachia but has always felt welcome in Big Stone Gap.

Paul Clark with the Trail of the Lonesome Pine invited the Council to attend the Barbara Polly Celebration on July 7th at 6pm. He said there would be various dignitaries for the ribbon cutting to rename the theater the Barbara Polly Theatre. They will be having a Trail Reunion on July 8th from 12 pm to 3 pm. There will be a dinner for the Polly Family at 4 pm at the John Fox, Jr. House with the show starting at 8 pm with a dedication for former cast member Clara Lou Kelly by Jack McClanahan. The drama will have a float in July 4th parade. Trey Stidham will be directing the drama this season and Jeff Branham is doing the sound system. He thanked and encouraged Council to attend all the events.

Adam Harris of 413 East River Street North came to Council a few months back as a member of Virginia Organizing about the issue of no water fountain at Italy Bottom Park and he wanted to thank Council for getting the new fountain installed quickly. He invited Council to attend the 3rd year of the Juneteenth Celebration on June 17th starting at 12 pm with a ribbon cutting at 1 pm. He asked Council for restrooms for Italy Bottom Park to replace the porta-potties currently being used. He can work with Virginia Organizing and the town to look for grant funding for this project.

A citizen commented about safety at the Italy Bottom Park due to two trees at the park being covered with poison ivy. Mayor Johnson said we could take care of that.

AGENDA ITEM 6**GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**

- a. **Approval of minutes of Council Workshop of May 2, 2023.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. **Approval of minutes of Public Utilities Committee Meeting of May 8, 2023.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- c. **Approval of minutes of Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting of May 8, 2023.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- d. **Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 9, 2023.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- e. **Departmental Reports for the month of May 2023.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.
- f. **Treasurer's Reports for the month of May 2023.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, 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 7**TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

Mrs. Hawkins said Mr. Broskey was unable to attend this evening but had no updates to his report from last week.

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

In Mr. Lawson's absence, Town Clerk/Treasurer Amanda Hawkins gave the Town Manager's Report.

a. PROCLAMATION - National Garden Week

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve a proclamation designating June 4th to June 10th, 2023 as National Garden Week.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a proclamation designating June 4th to June 10th, 2023 as National Garden Week. Motion resulted as follows:

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

b. PROCLAMATION – Big Stoned Hydroponics

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve a proclamation welcoming Patrick Anderson, owner of Big Stoned Hydroponics.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Patrick Anderson owner of Big Stoned Hydroponics located at 201 E 5th Street South. Motion resulted as follows:

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

c. PROCLAMATION – The Smokey Grass Station

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve a proclamation welcoming Zack Green, owner of The Smokey Grass Station.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Zack Green owner of The Smokey Grass Station located at 102 E 5th Street North. Motion resulted as follows:

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

d. RESOLUTION 06-2023 – Special Use Permit for the Little Bear Daycare

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve a Special Use Permit for the Little Bear Daycare owned/operated by Donna Kinsler.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley that Council approve Resolution 06-2023 being a resolution authorizing the issuance of a Special Use Permit for the Little Bear Daycare owned/operated by Donna Kinsler located at 2416 4th Avenue E. Motion resulted as follows:

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

e. ORDINANCE 08-2023 – FY2023-2024 Budget

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve Ordinance 08-2023 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve Ordinance 08-2023 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the fiscal year July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024, 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 previously imposed or modified herein. Motion resulted as follows:

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

f. RESOLUTION 09-2023 – Design Build Contracting Procedures

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve Resolution 09-2023 being a resolution establishing procedures for construction management or design build contracting.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer that Council approve Resolution 09-2023 being a resolution establishing procedures for construction management or design build contracting. Motion resulted as follows:

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

g. PARADE PERMIT – July 4th

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve a parade permit for the 4th of July Festivities to be held on July 4, 2023 beginning at 4pm.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a parade permit for the 4th of July Festivities to be held on July 4, 2023 beginning at 4pm. Motion resulted as follows:

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

h. COUNCIL WORKSHOP – July 4th

Mrs. Hawkins asked the Council to approve the cancellation of the July workshop meeting scheduled for July 4, 2023.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey, that Council cancel the July workshop meeting scheduled for July 4, 2023. Motion resulted as follows:

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

i. PROJECTS UPDATE

Mrs. Hawkins reported that the general engineering services request for proposal responses was due by 3 pm on Tuesday June 27. She asked Council to decide if a selection committee will be formed or if the entire council will review the submissions.

Mrs. Hawkins said there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony at Italy Bottom Park at 1 pm during the Juneteenth Celebration that starts at 11 am Saturday June 17th.

Mrs. Hawkins said the ribbon cutting for Big Stoned Hydroponics will be on Wednesday, June 28th at 12 pm across from Freedom Chevrolet.

Mrs. Hawkins said the Budget/Finance/Audit Committee will meet on Tuesday July 11th at 4:30 pm to receive the audit report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022.

AGENDA ITEM 9 COMMITTEE REPORT

No report.

AGENDA ITEM 10 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Hughes thanked Paul, Gale, Adam and Terran for speaking at the meeting. He also invited Council to attend the Juneteenth Celebration at Italy Bottom Park. He thanked the employees of the Town, Fire Department and Police Department.

Councilwoman Lyke said the brick pavers along E Jerome Street S are a good idea and would give a more historic look to the Town.

Vice-Mayor Bailey thanked Adam and said she has been at the Juneteenth Celebration every year they have had the event. She thanked the employees of the Town and the Police Department and Fire Department.

Mayor Johnson thanked Adam and Gale for coming to the meeting. He agreed the brick pavers were a good idea. He also stated there were a lot of events coming up and Council should try to attend. He thanked the Town crews, Police Department, and gave a special thanks to the Public Works Department for their hard work.

AGENDA ITEM 11

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey, 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 7:06 pm.

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