

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

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

September 5, 2023

6:30 PM

**AGENDA ITEM 1
Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order.

Council 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 Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer
 Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police
 Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

Staff Absent: Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager

**AGENDA ITEM 2
REVIEW OF MINUTES**

Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop of August 1, 2023, and the Regular Council Meeting of August 8, 2023.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT**

In Absence of Mr. Broskey, Mrs. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer made the Town Engineer's Report.

Greenbelt Phase V

Mrs. Hawkins said the bridge for Greenbelt Phase V is scheduled for manufacturing in October. Once the bridge is manufactured it will be transported to the site and the anticipated delivery date is still November at this time.

System Wide Water Loss Phase 1A, 1B and 2

Mrs. Hawkins said work is continuing on completing the requirements for the Letter of Conditions and interim financing.

AGENDA ITEM 4**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

In Absence of Mr. Lawson, Town Manager, Mrs. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer made the Town Manager's Report.

a. Parade Permit – UHS Homecoming Parade

Mrs. Hawkins said Union High School submitted a Permit for the Homecoming Parade scheduled on Thursday, October 5th at 6:30.

b. Public Hearing - Bond Anticipation

Mrs. Hawkins said a Public Hearing will need to be scheduled for the October 3rd meeting for the bond anticipation note interim financing with Powell Valley National Bank.

c. Projects Update

Mrs. Hawkins said a mortgage company had contacted Mr. Lawson about a property adjustment needed. The previous owner built a structure that overhangs the property line into an unopened alleyway. We will need to address this property adjustment at next week's meeting.

Mrs. Hawkins reminded Council the dates for the October meetings had been changed. The workshop was cancelled, and the regular meeting was rescheduled to October 3rd.

Mrs. Hawkins asked Council to consider cancelling the November 7th worship due to the general election being held that day.

Mrs. Hawkins said that early voting for the general election would be in Carnes Gym on the following dates: October 16th – October 20th, October 23rd – October 28th, October 30th – November 4th from 9 am to 5 pm each day.

Mrs. Hawkins updated Council on several upcoming events: September 9th at 7:30 pm the Visitor's Center will be showing a community movie screening of "Hellbender"; September 16th and 17th, the 12th Annual Mountain Traditions Carve-In Show and Sale will be at Carnes Gym beginning at 11 am, also on the 16th the Leigh Ann Bolinsky 5K Walk/Run at 9 am.

Mrs. Hawkins said that the Southwest Virginia Children's Advocacy Center Gala, "The Enchanted Ball", will be Saturday, November 11th from 6pm to 11pm at the Goodloe Center. She said the Town had purchased a table for 8 and to let her know who would like to attend.

AGENDA ITEM 5 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Kent Gilley, Council Representative for the Planning Commission said the meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2023.

AGENDA ITEM 6 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Lyke said the Gala for the Children's Advocacy Center on November 11th had invited several dignitaries urged Council to attend; and if anyone would like to donate for the silent auction at the CAC Galat to let her know.

Councilman Hughes thanked all the town employees, police, and fire departments. He also said that Virginia's Heritage Music Trail: The Crooked Road will host a special ceremony on September 13th at 6:30 pm at the Southwest Virginia Cultural Center and Marketplace in Abingdon to celebrate its 20th Anniversary.

Vice-Mayor Bailey said the cleanup of the debris from the apartment building that burned last Christmas has completed. She also stated that homelessness is an issue in Big Stone Gap and surrounding areas. She asked how best to address this issue - start with Planning Commission or Council? The Kiwanas Club had provided a bus shelter that has now been removed due to complaints about drug issues. She also said two local churches were having problems with trash left by the homeless. Councilman Bloomer stated the homeless had vandalized a building behind the 404 Café and Creamery. Vice-Mayor Bailey said we need to do something.

Councilwoman Lyke said there was a deer issue in Town due to people feeding them in their yards. She said Council needs to check if there is anything can be done regarding this issue.

Mayor Johnson said the steak cook-off will be on September 23rd with chicken wings and margaritas for judging. He said that the Tour de Crackers Neck was fun and we had new participation from out of state, great response from visitors. He also said he had a class reunion and people were overjoyed with all the town improvements. He thanked the town employees for all the work they had put into the town.

AGENDA ITEM 7 ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 6:50 pm.

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