

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

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

October 3, 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. Robert Bloomer, Councilman
 Hon. Kent Gilley, Councilman
 Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
 Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

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

Those Absent: Hon. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor

Mayor Johnson recessed the Regular Council Meeting and opened the Public Hearing for the Bond Anticipation Note – Powell Valley National Bank.

AGENDA ITEM 2

PUBLIC HEARING – Bond Anticipation Note – Powell Valley National Bank

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing for the Bond Anticipation Note – Powell Valley National Bank and called for comments from the public.

No comments from the public were made.

Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing for the Bond Anticipation Note – Powell Valley National Bank and reconvened the Regular Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3

INVOCATION by Reverend Ray Moore of Christ Episcopal Church.

AGENDA ITEM 4

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 5

ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of October 3, 2023 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Bailey

AGENDA ITEM 6

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

No comments.

AGENDA ITEM 7

GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of minutes of the Council Workshop of September 5, 2023. Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- b. Approval of Regular Council Meeting of September 12, 2023. Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- c. Departmental Reports for the month of September 2023. 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: Bloomer, Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Bailey

AGENDA ITEM 8

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Greenbelt Phase V

Mr. Broskey said the bridge for Greenbelt Phase V is scheduled for fabrication this month to be delivered in November.

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

Mr. Broskey said they are getting closer to advertising with the last two items being finalized at this Council Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 9**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT****a. Resolution – 10-2023 – RD Loan**

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve the Resolution – 10-2023 – RD Loan. Roll Call vote resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Bailey

b. Resolution 11-2023 – PVNB - Bond Anticipation Note

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bloomer, that Council authorize Resolution 11-2023 - Powell Valley National Bank Bond Anticipation Note. Roll Call vote resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Bailey

c. Proclamation – Roy Cornelius Smith

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council adopt the Proclamation – Roy Cornelius Smith. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Bailey

d. Parade Permit – Veterans' Day Parade

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve the Veterans' Day Parade Permit. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Baiely

e. Parade Permit – Christmas Parade

**Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve the Christmas Parade Permit.
Motion resulted as follows:**

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

f. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson said that Councilwoman Bailey had fell at the doctor's office and suffered superficial damages.

Mr. Lawson said the Town of Big Stone Gap won the event of the year for the Blue Highway Festival at the International Bluegrass Music Association's award ceremony. Mr. Lawson said they took a group of town employees and Councilman Hughes to promote this year's festival. He said the Town would be in high gear next week to get everything ready for the Blue Highway Festival this year. Mr. Lawson said we are expecting a lot of special guests, including the Attorney General, to be here on October 12th at 3:30 pm to do a walking tour through Big Stone Gap and be back by 5:00 pm to greet people at Blue Highway. He will then be on stage to introduce the band and will have a press conference afterward. There will be other delegates coming but have not given a schedule, they will just be in attendance.

Mr. Lawson said we have Friends of the Festival dinner Tuesday October 10th at the John Fox Junior House from 7 pm - 9:30 pm with Carson Peters, Iron Mountain and Blue Highway performing. Mr. Lawson said the event is sponsored by the Ronald Blue Trust, who will also have delegates in attendance.

Mr. Lawson read a thank you card that was sent to Council for their donation of \$21,000 to the Union Primary School backpack program.

Mr. Lawson said the Office of Drinking congratulated the Water Treatment Department for getting the Virginia Department of Health 2023 Excellence in Waterworks Operations Silver Award.

Mr. Lawson said the basketball goals are up, got the last estimates for the coatings. He said the Town is going with Chris England's Xtreme Coatings.

Mr. Lawson said the Town had been pricing a Bobcat loader and a Case loader. He said the Bobcat loader came in \$18,000 cheaper than the Case loader, so the Town is going with Bobcat.

Mr. Lawson said that Boyd's construction started paving in the Town limits. He said they are on Italy bottom today, and have completed Big Stone Gap Heights, Dogwood Terrace, Azalea Lane, Moore Circle and Maxfield Road. 2nd Street Wyandotte to Shawnee around Municipal building was added to the schedule today.

Council Bloomer asked how many pickle ball courts there were to paint. Mr. Lawson said there were 5 pickleball and one basketball court. He said the Town was looking at cleaning out the alley at the Mooneyhan's and putting some there too.

AGENDA ITEM 10 COMMITTEE REPORT

Councilman Gilley said there was a Planning Commission Meeting scheduled for September 9th.

AGENDA ITEM 11 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Bloomer congratulated Mayor Johnson on his State Cookoff Association win.

Councilman Gilley seen the Tour de Crackers Neck and that it was a good race. There were 31 racers. He also congratulated the Mayor on his Golden Ticket for Dallas from the State Cookoff. He said all the concerts were great and that winning at the IBMA's is amazing. He said he is looking forward to the Blue Highway Festival next week and thanked everyone for everything.

Councilman Hughes congrats to Blue Highway and all the crews that work on that. He said he had heard really good things about the Carve-In and the State Cookoff Association event. He reminded everyone about the early voting in October, and Homecraft Days at Mountain Empire Community College on October 22nd - 23rd. Councilman Hughes said he would present the proclamation for Roy Cornelius Smith at the Pro Art Event on Sunday, October 8th. He thanked all the employees, fire department, police department and EMTs'.

Councilwoman Lyke said congratulations to the mayor, that he did a very good job at the State Cookoff Event. Also, congratulations on the Blue Highway Festival award and that she will be the only attendee at Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference October 7 - 10.

Mayor Johnson said we had great events with the bike race and the state cookoff. He said that they wanted to do another bike race by end of year because the scenery for the ride was great. He said all the events went smoothly and he was very impressed with the award he was presented with from the wood carvers at the Carve-In. Mayor Johnson thanked the town crews for their hard work on all the events and said that the music was great. He also said he had people come up to him to say we had it going on and that Delegate Terry Kilgore said this is the reason he loves coming to Big Stone Gap events to see things happening and he always has fun. Mayor Johnson said he was proud of the Town and now let's get ready for Blue Highway.

AGENDA ITEM 12
ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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