

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

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

December 05, 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: Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager
 Ms. Amanda Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer
 Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

Council Absent: Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM 2

PUBLIC HEARING – Transfer of Property to Elizabeth Talley

Mayor Johnson recessed the Council Workshop and opened the public hearing. Hearing had no comment from the public. Mayor Johnson closed the public hearing and reconvened the Council Workshop.

**AGENDA ITEM 3
REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES**

Review of draft of minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of November 14, 2023. Mayor Johnson stated that if Council had any changes to inform the Town Treasurer, Amanda Hawkins.

AGENDA ITEM 4

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Greenbelt Phase V

John Broskey stated the bridge is in. The bridge will be lifted into place on December 6, 2023. Mr. Broskey said the plan is to pave next Tuesday if the asphalt plant remains open. He also said the decking would need to be installed on the bridge and no lighting and no electrical conduit was built in so that will need to be addressed.

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

John Broskey said the project did get advertised and the bid opening will be on January 4. Bid packets can be picked up beginning December 14.

Virginia Department of Health - System Wide Water Loss Phase 3

John Broskey said May 2023 an application for the project was submitted with a budget of \$7.6 million for Phase 3 of the System Wide Water Loss PER. The original offer from Virginia Department of Health (VDH) was \$5.4 million which left the funding short \$2.2 million. He said we recently received a funding offer from VDH for the \$2.2 million.

AGENDA ITEM 5

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Ordinance 12-2023 – Transfer of Property to Elizabeth Talley

Mr. Lawson said this is the ordinance Council would need to adopt next week to approve the transfer of property to Mrs. Talley.

b. Resolution 13-2023 – Re-appoint Robert Bloomer to Lenowisco Board

Mr. Lawson said this resolution recommended re-appointing Mr. Bloomer to the Lenowisco Board for another four years.

c. Resolution 14-2023 – Appoint Wendy Warden to Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson said this resolution would appoint Wendy Warden to the Planning Commission to replace the vacancy created by the death of David Gibson.

d. Projects Update

Drought Report

Mr. Lawson said that Gary Hampton notes the reservoir has maintained with rain and usage. He also said that payment was made from the Town of Appalachia, and we have stopped sending to the Town of Appalachia. We are still sending water to Norton.

Funding Offers

Mr. Lawson said the new offer from VDH and other projects will have to be discussed to see how it will affect cash flows.

Country Boy Hill

Mr. Lawson said that Estes Brothers is finalizing detour routes for the work on Country Boy Hill. The construction will start after Christmas once VDOT has approved the routes. The proposal is to route traffic to the 2nd exit and hard close past last driveway. The expected time for completion will be 6 weeks.

Mr. Lawson said the Green Belt in Lights started last Saturday, December 2nd, and will continue every Saturday through Christmas.

Mr. Lawson announced that the Employee Christmas lunch is December 19th at 12 noon.

Mr. Lawson said that the Christmas open house will be December 16th.

Mr. Lawson said HUD and DHR for cabin property for pump track had no significant impact.

Mr. Lawson said there will be a meeting with MUSCO Lighting at 1 pm to discuss the lighting on the fields.

Mr. Lawson said that the Family Crisis dedication will be December 13 at 1 pm.

Mr. Lawson read a thank you card from the Betty Cline family.

Mr. Lawson said the Pottery Shop Event for staff will be December at 7 pm at the Visitor's Center.

Mr. Lawson said the Health Wagon will have their Move Mountain Medical Mission December 7 & 8.

Mr. Lawson said that Bobby Tuck recommended Brandy McAfee as the Cumberland Airport representative.

Mr. Lawson said that Betty Fannon had passed away.

Mayor Johnson said that Mark Bobroski had passed away.

Mr. Lawson said the Pickleball courts are done, as well as the basketball courts, and have been being used as weather permits.

**AGENDA ITEM 6
COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Robert Bloomer with the Lenowisco Board meeting said that they had approved \$50,000 planning grant for the Community Block Grant at Italy Bottom Park. Mr. Lawson said that we will get \$10,000 grant from Lenowisco for pump that went down with a cost of \$32,000.

AGENDA ITEM 7
COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman McKinney said the Christmas parade went well.

Councilman Hughes said the parade was well attended and had a blast representing the Town Council. He also said that St. Paul asked who did our pickleball courts? Mr. Lawson said he would share the contractor's number and name with them.

Councilwoman Lyke said the PA system at the stage for the parade needs to be fixed for next year.

Vice-Mayor Nancy Bailey heard the parade was nice and she appreciates the thoughts for David, and he is recovering.

Mayor Johnson said the parade was great and thanks for all the prayers for Kathy and she was doing well.

AGENDA ITEM 7
ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned 7:00 pm.

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