

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

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

December 12, 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: Mr. Stephen Lawson, Town Manager
 Mr. Steve Hamm, Chief of Police
 Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

Those Absent: Ms. Amanda L. Hawkins, Town Clerk/Treasurer

AGENDA ITEM 2

INVOCATION by Pastor Bud Kilbourne/Assistant Pastor Eddie Kilbourne of Cornerstone House of Prayer.

AGENDA ITEM 3

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4

ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Mayor Johnson asked for a Motion and a Second to Adopt or Amend the Agenda, Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of November 14, 2023 be adopted as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5
COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

None

AGENDA ITEM 6
GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mayor Johnson asked for a Motion and a Second that the General Order of Business be approved as presented.

- a. Approval of Regular Council Meeting of November 14, 2023.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. Departmental Reports for the month of November 2023.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, 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

Greenbelt Phase V

John Broskey stated the bridge did get set up last week and it was a couple of days late due to crane issues and the weather. He said that paving is scheduled for this Thursday, before the pavement companies shut down, then the decking will go in. Mr. Broskey said it went well and looked good.

AGENDA ITEM 8
TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

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

Mr. Lawson asked for a Motion and a Second to Transfer 0.025 acres of Property to Elizabeth Talley.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that Council adopt Ordinance 12-2023 being an ordinance transferring 0.025 acres of public right of way to Elizabeth Talley. Motion resulted as follows:

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

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

Mr. Lawson asked for a Motion and a Second to appoint Robert Bloomer to the Lenowisco Board.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey, that Council approve Resolution 13-2023 being a resolution recommending Robert Bloomer be re-appointed to the Lenowisco Planning District Commission board for a four-year term to expire December 31, 2027. Motion resulted as follows:

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

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

Mr. Lawson asked for a Motion and a Second to Appoint Wendy Warden to the Planning Commission to fill the remainder of David Gibson’s term, with her term expiring on January 31, 2026.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve Resolution 14-2023 being a resolution appointing Wendy Warden to the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to fill the remainder of David Gibson’s term, with her term expiring on January 31, 2026. Motion resulted as follows:

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

d. Resolution 15-2023 – Appoint Brandy McAfee to the Cumberland Airport Commission

Mr. Lawson asked for a Motion to Appoint Brandy McAfee to the Cumberland Airport Commission to replace Bobby Tuck for a four-year term to expire December 31, 2027.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve Resolution 15-2023 being a resolution appointing Brandy McAfee to the Cumberland Airport Commission replacing Bobby Tuck, for a four-year term to expire December 31, 2027. Motion resulted as follows:

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

e. Projects Update**Bullitt Park**

Mr. Lawson said that Musco lighting gave an estimate of \$89,000 for the Field 1 LED lighting. He said this is equipment only and did not include labor. Mr. Lawson said he was still trying to meet with Union High School regarding the lights for the football field at Bullitt Park. He said that the Town of Big Stone Gap would have the baseball field and Union High School to

do the football field. Mr. Lawson said the basketball courts are ready for use at Bullitt Park.

Greenbelt in Lights

Mr. Lawson said the Town of Big Stone Gap Greenbelt in Lights had approximately 350 people in attendance Saturday December 8th. This event will also be on December 16th, 23rd and 30th at 6 pm. He also said on Saturday, December 16th and 23rd photos with Santa will be from 6 pm to 8 pm along with the Christmas Market being open at that time.

Santa in Coming to Town

Mr. Lawson said that the Santa schedule will be December 15th – 2 pm – 5 pm Powell Valley National Bank. December 16th 9 am – 11 am at 404 Creamery and Café, December 17th 6 pm – 8 pm at The Pottery Shop.

Mac Music Christmas Recital

Mr. Lawson said that the Mac Music Christmas Recital will be on Friday, December 15th from 5 pm – 6 pm at Good Times Coal Fired Pizza and Pub.

Greenbelt Phase V

Mr. Lawson said the bridge is set in place and paving will begin on Thursday, December 14th. He said there will be a change in plans on the river side, instead of putting asphalt going to put a rainbow shape with a pad of concrete, less space to come around make both loops match and extra room place some benches with flower bed to have a focal point for the bridge.

AGENDA ITEM 9 COMMITTEE REPORT

None

AGENDA ITEM 10 COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Hughes said the bridge on the greenbelt looks great. He also said the Festival of Trees at the Southwest Virginia Museum continues and it is great to see the amount of people for the Greenbelt in Lights and seeing the Town packed on Friday and Saturday nights. He thanked all the town employees, Fire and Police Departments.

Councilman McKinney asked Mr. Lawson about the water bills being for 40 plus days of billing and the amount due was more. Mr. Lawson said that we may capture a few more days during a cycle, but he would check on it.

Councilwoman Lyke said it was great seeing everyone downtown for the festivities. She stated that we were the only Town that does not have our Town manager under contract and that Steve is an asset to our Town and would like to see him under contract. Mr. Bledsoe did not recommend it but would check into it. Mr. Hughes said that it would be discussed in a closed session later.

Vice- Mayor Bailey said she was so excited to see how many people were in Town Saturday night and she loved the Greenbelt in Lights Festivities. She thanked Parks & Rec, the Police department and everyone who helped with this event.

Mayor Johnson said the celebrations that have went on were absolutely beautiful, he talked with people from other places, and they loved it. He said the kids were very excited and had a lot of fun. He said he hopes the Town can continue to grow and go, and he thanked the Police department, water department, town crews and everyone. He also thank Mr. Lawson for everything he does.

AGENDA ITEM 11 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, 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 6:49 pm.

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