

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

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

January 14, 2025

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. Kent Gilley, Councilman
 Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
 Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

Those Absent: Hon. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor
 Hon. Robert Bloomer, Councilman

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 - INVOCATION by Pastor Jacob Herron of East Stone Gap Methodist Church.

In absence of Jacob Herron, Mayor Johnson done the invocation.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4 - ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Hughes, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of January 14, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5 - COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Dathan Davis, 711 3rd Avenue East, Union Wrestling Club Administrator, said he came to Council to ask for a donation towards purchasing a building. He said the wrestling club is not school sponsored and any funding comes from fundraising or himself. He said this is an independent club with ages Kindergarten through 8th grade. He said they want to raise material costs in the amount of \$30,000 - \$50,000. Mayor Johnson said Council would discuss and see what they can do.

Jim Porchie, 111 2nd Avenue West, said he has lived there on Aviation Road for 60 years. He said traffic flies on this road, and he has complained to the Police Department, and he has seen them there, but it did not slow anything down. Mayor Johnson said Council would look into this matter.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of minutes of Council Workshop Meeting of December 3, 2024.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of December 10, 2024.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- c. Departmental Reports for the month of December 2024.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that the General Order of Business be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 7 - TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Broskey said on the System Wide Water Improvement Project the contractor said they hope to start back next week in Italy Bottom. He said on the Sunrise Village Project he is working with LENOWISCO on an application and preliminary report to add 17 homes.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Resolution 01-2025 – Appropriate \$1,221,100 ARC Funds

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 01-2025 being a resolution appropriating \$1,221,100 in ARC Funds for the Big Cherry Regional Recreation Enhanced Infrastructure Project.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Resolution 01-2025 being a resolution appropriating \$1,221,100 in ARC Funds for the Big Cherry Regional Recreation Enhanced Infrastructure Project. Motion resulted as follows:

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

b. Resolution 02-2025 – Reappoint Freda Bishop – Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 02-2025 being a resolution reappointing Freda Bishop to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on October 31, 2028.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Resolution 02-2025 being a resolution reappointing Freda Bishop to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on October 31, 2028. Motion resulted as follows:

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

c. Resolution – 03-2025 – Reappoint Amy Hubbard – Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 03-2025 being a resolution reappointing Amy Hubbard to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on September 30, 2028.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve Resolution 03-2025 being a resolution reappointing Amy Hubbard to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on September 30, 2028. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

d. Resolution 04-2025 – Reappoint Greg Kress – Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 04-2025 being a resolution reappointing Greg Kress to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on July 31, 2028.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Resolution 04-2025 being a resolution reappointing Greg Kress to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on July 31, 2028. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

e. Resolution 05-2025 Reappoint Lorenzo Rodriguez – Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 05-2025 being a resolution reappointing Lorenzo Rodriguez to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on July 31, 2028.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Resolution 05-2025 being a resolution reappointing Lorenzo Rodriguez to a four-year term on the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to expire on July 31, 2028. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

f. Ordinance 18-2024 – Establish Downtown Big Stone Gap Historic District

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Ordinance 18-2024 establishing the Downtown Big Stone Gap Historic District.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Ordinance 18-2024 establishing the Downtown Big Stone Gap Historic District. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

g. Ordinance 19-2024 – Recreational Substance: Retail

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Ordinance 19-2024 being an ordinance listing the special limitations for the specific uses of recreational substance: retail.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Ordinance 19-2024 being an ordinance listing the special limitations for the specific uses of recreational substance: retail. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

h. Ordinance 24-2024 – Amend Section 13.6 Alcohol Sales Hours

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Ordinance 24-2024 being an ordinance amending the alcohol sales hours.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Ordinance 24-2024 being an ordinance amending the alcohol sales hours. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

i. Ordinance 27-2024 Skill Games: Retail

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Ordinance 27-2024 being an ordinance listing the special limitations for the specific uses of skill games: retail.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Ordinance 27-2024 being an ordinance listing the special limitations for the specific uses of skill games: retail. Motion resulted as follows:

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

j. JR Appalachian Music Program

No action to take on this item.

k. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson said that Councilwoman Bailey is having complications from surgery and hopes she recovers quickly and to keep her in our prayers.

Mr. Lawson said for two months in a row Big Stone Gap has the Cover of the VRWA magazine.

Mr. Lawson distributed the reworked Tiny Homes Ordinance by the Planning Commission for Council to review and said that Charles Bledsoe has also received a copy for review. He said if Council had any questions to go ahead and ask Wendy Warden, she was in attendance. He said it is basically the same, that the Planning Commission took it into simpler form and followed what the State and County had done, so everyone will be on the same page for the Tiny Home Ordinance.

Mr. Lawson said the Blue Highway Festival committee was meeting weekly. He said we were contacting bands and sponsors and the week of February 3rd an official announcement will be made on the 2025 dates of the Festival.

Mr. Lawson said Skate Park meeting will be on January 23 from 9 am – 7 pm. He said we need to get as many people involved and there as possible.

Mr. Lawson said Public Works were interviewing for two positions. He said they have two candidates they are making offers to.

Mr. Lawson said the Police Department made an offer to a certified officer who declined. He said there will be interviews for the DTF internal posting.

Mr. Lawson said weather is a battle and we are waiting for supplies and salt out of Ohio. He said there will be extremely low temperatures for the rest of the month.

Mr. Lawson said the LOVE sign at MECC has been delayed due to an ordering error in June and the metal had to be reordered.

Mr. Lawson said the Polar Plunge and the Chilly Chili Cookoff is February 1, 2025 with the Gap Partnership.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gilley said the Planning Commission met two weeks ago and has sent everything to Council regarding the Tiny Homes Ordinance. He said there would be a vote to have a public hearing regarding the Ordinance after Council has time to review.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Gilley thanked all the employees and told everyone to be safe out there.

Councilman Hughes thanked the Planning Commission for taking the concerns of individuals to the County. He said thanks to all the employees and staff and to keep Nancy in your prayers.

Councilwoman Lyke said she echoes the other comments. She said she knows Public Works is short-handed and said she actually rode in the salt plow with them and these guys are working hard. She said she has seen Ked and his employees working hard and Gary Harris and his crew out in this cold taking down lights and Christmas decorations. She said good luck to everyone at the Polar Plunge jumping into the cold water.

Mayor Johnson echoed the other comments. He said thanks to all employees, and he has seen our teams go above and beyond and that all departments need a pat on the back.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - ADJOURNMENT

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

Ayes: Gilley, Hughes, Johnson, Lyke, McKinney

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bailey, Bloomer

Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

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