

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

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

June 03, 2025

6:30 PM

AGENDA ITEM 1

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Johnson called the June 03, 2025 meeting to order.

Council Present: Hon. Gary Johnson, Mayor
Hon. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor
Hon. Kent Gilley, Councilman
Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

Council Absent: Hon. Robert Bloomer, Councilman

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

Planning Commission Present: Ms. Wendy Warden, – Chairwoman
Ms. Amy Hubbard – Vice-Chairwoman
Mr. Kent Gilley – Member
Mr. Greg Kress, Member
Mr. John Morrissey – Member

Planning Commission Absent: Mrs. Freda Bishop – Member
Mr. Adam Harris - Member
Mr. Brian Jones, Member
Mr. Lorenzo Rodriquez – Member
Mr. Matthew Bright, Administrator

AGENDA ITEM 2

JOINT PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Johnson recessed the Council Workshop Meeting and opened the Joint Public Hearing for Resolution 13-2025 – Special Use Permit and asked for public comment.

No comments from the public were made.

Mayor Johnson closed the Joint Public Hearing for Resolution 13-2025.

AGENDA ITEM 3 PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 14-2025 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap for the FY2025-2026 and asked for public comment.

No comments from the public were made.

Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing for Ordinance 14-2025 and reconvened the Council Workshop Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES

Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop of May 6, 2025 and the Regular Council Meeting of May 13, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 5 TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Broskey gave the Town Engineer's Report as follows:

- Water Line Project - The contractor is working in Artesian Well Hollow with a line extension and tying two systems together and will be running a pressure test today.
- Phase III – A preliminary set of drawings are complete for the Town to review and make revisions, if any.
- Big Stone Gap Greenbelt and Appy Trail – A pre-application for VDOT was completed by Lane Engineering, Stephen Lawson and LENOWISCO. This was submitted last week.

AGENDA ITEM 6 TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Proclamation – Big Stone Beer & Tobacco Mart

- Proclamation welcoming Golden Gold Enterprise LLC, owner of the Big Stone Beer & Tobacco Mart located at 102 E 5th Street North in Big Stone Gap.

b. Resolution 13-2025 – Special Use Permit

- Asking Council to approve Resolution 13-2025 being a resolution authorizing a Special Use Permit to Ryan and Deborah Adams.

c. Ordinance 14-2025 – FY2025-2026 Budget Ordinance

- Asking Council approve Ordinance 14-2025 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the FY2025-FY2026.

d. Resolution 15-2025 – Section 125 Plan Year 2025-2026

- Asking Council to approve Resolution 15-2025 being a resolution adopting the Section 125 Cafeteria Premium Only Plan for the plan year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026.

e. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates to Council:

- VDOT pre-application was accepted. Full draft application is due in September 2025. This project will take a lot of work and is almost \$3 million.
- Application for the federal building has been accepted regionally.
- Mr. Lawson met with a representative from the Virginia Forestry Department to review and get the current Plan for Big Cherry updated. The representative went to Big Cherry to look around and will meet with Mr. Lawson later in the month to discuss any endangered species that might be living there.
- A printout for Blue Highway Festival was handed out to Council with the final lineup. Ked Meade is working on a link for volunteers so they can communicate through the link. The food has been ordered for the event
- Lenowisco was here today for the Community Development Block Grant Hearing for the next phase.
- June 21st at 11AM is the Garfield Long, Sr. Cemetery dedication.
- A schedule for the July 4th Extravaganza was handed out to Council.
- An application for a Grant is being submitted to Virginia Energy.
- District 13 softball tournaments will be here this weekend.
- Charlie Fannon passed away and his arrangements were handed out to Council. Mr. Lawson said that Charlie Fannon was a big influence on lots of kids in the area. He also asked Council to consider a memorial bench for Charlie at the Union Little League field and one for Williard near the new bridge.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilman Gilley said that the Planning Commission wanted to ask Mr. Lawson if we are moving forward with the Compilation Plan. Stephen Lawson said yes, and another RFP bid would need to be completed.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Lyke thanked Ked Meade, Steve Lawson and the Police Department for helping with Gathering in the Gap. She said the Bellamy Brothers did not get to come but the Tennessee Bluegrass Band was wonderful, they were very humble and nice, and a really good band. She said it is National Garden Week, and the Garden Club had their picture took at the Visitors for the presentation. She thanked the Town for all their support. She said she wants to do a bench, that Charlie had a big impact for kids and always helped and had a smile on his face; Charlie and Betty meant a lot to a lot of people. She said she was in favor of doing a bench for Willard too; he also had a huge impact in this Community.

Councilman Hughes said he echoed Crystal's sentiments and sent condolences to the Fannon family. He said he too was in favor of both benches. He thanked Council for attending the Crooked Road Sign presentation. He reminded Council about the invite for the Juneteenth Celebration June 21st. He said thanks to all employees and staff, fire and rescue.

Councilman Gilley asked Crystal how they found the Tennessee Bluegrass Band so quickly? She said it was a collaboration of everyone pulling together. Councilman Gilley thanked the Mayor for doing a great job at Kid's Fishing Day, it was a great event, had more in attendance and the weather

was nice. He thanked the town for all it does for the event.

Councilwoman Bailey shared a story about Charlie and said he and Betty were one of a kind. She thanked everyone for helping with Gathering in the Gap, and the Crooked Road presentation was wonderful.

Mayor Johnson said Charlie and Betty will be missed in the community, said Betty made the best Candy in the County and Charlie was a great friend. He said he has been going to the park a lot with his grandson and the Splash Pad is wonderful and the park is very clean. He said Kid's Fishing Day was wonderful with a 5 lbs. 3-ounce winner. He said this is a big event and thanked all the departments for everything they do.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

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