

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

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

June 10, 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. Nancy Bailey, Vice-Mayor
 Hon. Robert Bloomer Councilman
 Hon. Kent Gilley, Councilman
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
 Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

Council Absent: Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman

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

Staff Absent: Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

AGENDA ITEM 2 - INVOCATION by Pastor Kenneth Sturgill of Spirit and Truth Worship Center.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4 - ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Bailey seconded by Lyke, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of June 10, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5 – COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

JT Wells said he, Jeff Dickenson, and their wives have created the Do Gooder Ministry. He said this ministry spreads the Gospel of Jesus Christ and are trying to bring the community and churches together for an event on July 5th 11AM - 3PM for 18 and under. He handed out a flyer to Council detailing the event. He said they have received various donations from businesses and came to ask Council for a donation of \$500.

James Terrell, 476 Ridge Place, said he was here a year ago and talked about inoperable vehicles in the town. He said this has not been enforced since the ordinance was passed. Ms. Hawkins said his pictures had been sent to Jimmy McElrath and Mayor Johnson responded that Council would look into this.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of minutes of Council Workshop Meeting of May 06, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. Approval of minutes of the Budget/Finance/Audit Committee Meeting of May 06, 2025. Recommended Action: Approve as presented.**
- c. Approval of the minutes of the Public Utility Committee Meeting of May 06, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- d. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of May 06, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- e. Departmental Reports for the month of May 2025.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

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

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes

AGENDA ITEM 7 - TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Broskey reported that:

- Contractors worked on the zone meters at two tank locations and will take a couple of weeks to get completed.
- Phase III plans will be reviewed with Public Works tomorrow.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Proclamation – Big Stone Beer & Tobacco Mart

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a 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.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a 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. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes

b. Proclamation – Bus Stop Artisan Market & Workshop

Mr. Lawson asked to Council approve a proclamation welcoming Deborah Adams, owner of the Bus Stop Artisan Market & Workshop located at 18 E 5th Street South in Big Stone Gap.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Lyke Council approve a proclamation welcoming Deborah Adams, owner of the Bus Stop Artisan Market & Workshop located at 18 E 5th Street South in Big Stone Gap. Motion resulted as follows:

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

c. Proclamation – Charlene Joie Cantrell

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a proclamation recognizing the tireless and passionate commitment of Charlene Joie Cantrell and acknowledge her being named the 2025 Public Health Nurse of the Year by the Virginia Department of Health.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey that Council approve a proclamation recognizing the tireless and passionate commitment of Charlene Joie Cantrell and acknowledge her being named the 2025 Public Health Nurse of the Year by the Virginia Department of Health. Motion resulted as follows:

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

d. Resolution 13-2025 – Special Use Permit

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 11-2025 being a resolution authorizing a Special Use Permit to Ryan and Deborah Adams to convert a portion of the first floor from commercial space to residential space at 20 East 5th Street North in Big Stone Gap with the additional condition that during the conversion construction the upgrades will bring all necessary building codes into compliance.

Motion by Bailey, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Resolution 11-2025 being a resolution authorizing a Special Use Permit to Ryan and Deborah Adams to convert a portion of the first floor from commercial space to residential space at 20 East 5th Street North in Big Stone Gap with the additional condition that during the conversion construction the upgrades will bring all necessary building codes into compliance. Motion resulted as follows:

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

e. Ordinance 0 14-2025 – FY2025-2026 Budget

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Ordinance 14-2025 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, appropriating funds for the fiscal year and placing levies upon all real estate, personal property, bank stock, licenses, fees, consumer utility services, meals tax, vehicle license tax, cigarette tax, transient occupancy tax, and all other levies previously imposed or modified herein.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve Ordinance 14-2025 being an ordinance adopting the budget for the Town of Big Stone Gap, VA for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, appropriating funds for the fiscal year and placing levies upon all real estate, personal property, bank stock, licenses, fees, consumer utility services, meals

tax, vehicle license tax, cigarette tax, transient occupancy tax, and all other levies previously imposed or modified herein. Motion resulted as follows:

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

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

Mr. Lawson asked 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.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council 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. Motion resulted as follows:

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

g. October 7th Workshop

Mr. Lawson asked Council to cancel the October 7, 2025 Council Workshop meeting.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council cancel the October 7, 2025 Council Workshop meeting. Motion resulted as follows:

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

h. November Council Meetings

Mr. Lawson asked Council to move the November Council Workshop meeting to Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm, due to the General Election and move the November Regular Council Meeting to Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm, due to the Veteran's Day holiday.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey, that Council move the November Council Workshop meeting to Wednesday, November 5, 2025 at 6:30 pm, due to the General Election and move the November Regular Council Meeting to Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at 6:30 pm, due to the Veteran's Day holiday. Motion resulted as follows:

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

i. Parade Permit – Storms the Mountains

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a parade permit for 5th Annual Storm the Mountains event on Friday, August 1, 2025 at 9:00 pm.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bailey, that Council approve a parade permit for 5th Annual Storm the Mountains event on Friday, August 1, 2025 at 9:00 pm. Motion resulted as follows:

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

j. July 4th

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a parade permit for the 4th of July Festivities on Friday, July 4, 2025 at 4:00 pm.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a parade permit for the 4th of July Festivities on Friday, July 4, 2025 at 4:00 pm. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: Hughes

k. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates:

- Gem of Virginia is not in the FY25-26 budget, but they want to discuss the Town keeping the branding and staying in the program. More talks regarding pricing and contract details will be discussed and will bring to Council before signing.
- Tour de Crackers Neck - 9AM - June 14th. Mayor worked on marking the routes.
- June 14th – High Knob Music Festival.
- 62nd season for the Trail of the Lonesome Pine is underway through August 9th every Thursday, Friday and Saturday, gates open at 6:30PM with pre-show and main show starting at 7:30PM.
- June 14th – Kickoff Summer Block Party – 5PM – 10PM.
- June 21st – 5th Annual Juneteenth event at Italy Bottom Park, starts at noon.
- June 21st – Dedication for the Joseph Garfield Long, Sr. Cemetery.
- June 27th – July 4th – EXTRAVAGANA
- Last chance for paving requests will be finalizing the schedule.
- Work on the LED lighting at Bullitt Park will begin July 14th and end August 1st. Contractor will be moving a container of equipment in on June 23rd.
- Getting quotes to resurface the track at Bullitt Park.
- Skate park meeting tomorrow. Finalizing the signage for all the funders. There is plans for a concrete memorial for Tyler Flanary that will sit on one of the jumps. The project grant portal will be opening in January 2026 to get money for the shelter. The Town did not receive the Cumberland Forrest grant; the appropriate groups will be notified to obtain anything from the cabin they want to keep because it will be taken down.
- Holding the EV chargers that were previously purchased and researching how they can be connected for the Town to receive a payment for the usage.
- There will be a Gospel Day for the Blue Highway Festival on Sunday, October 12th with The Isaacs, Blue Highway and Authentic Unlimited performing. This will bring a look back to the old days of the singing convention.
- Union Little League State trip asked for a \$1,000 sponsorship from the Town.
- Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a donation of \$500 to Do Gooder and \$1,000 to Union Little League for State Tournament.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a donation of \$500 to Do Gooder and \$1,000 to Union Little League for State Tournament. Motion resulted as follows:

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

- Garden Club has picked a spot across from the pickleball courts for their Bench.
- Checking prices for memorial benches for Charlie and Willard with a Parks and Rec emblem for their years of service.
- There has been utility issues with Appalachia that could result in a change to the budget in sewer. No numbers are available but will inform Council when they are.
- Bristol Signs is constructing a new cross for the downtown water tank. The old Cross will be taken down and replaced with a new one.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 10 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Lyke asked if we could put a post on social media to inform the public of issues with the cross. Ked Meade said it was already in the process. She thanked Joie Cantrell for her service and that it was a great honor. She thanked JT and Jeff and all the speakers that came tonight. She thanked the Town and Ked Meade for support of Garden Club. She said the Garden Club attended the Farmer's Market as a vendor. She said she wanted to thank all the employees before the 4th of July and for putting in the lots of hours she knows they will have. She said the Union Little League will be at Bullitt Park all week for tournaments.

Vice-Mayor Bailey thanked Joie Cantrell and the Health Department for everything they do for us. She said thanks to everyone.

Mayor Johnson thanked Joie Cantrell and said he has known her for many years, and she was a great lady. He thanked Council and all the Town employees.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

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