

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

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

July 01, 2025

6:30 PM

AGENDA ITEM 1

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Johnson called the July 01, 2025 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
 Mr. Matt Russell, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM 2 - REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES

Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop of June 3, 2025 and the Regular Council Meeting of June 10, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 3

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

- Water Line Project - The railroad approved the work by Tiger Market and the contractor is working on scheduling that with railroad personnel.
- Sunrise Village – ARC funding was awarded to add 17 connections to the system at Sunrise Village on the four-lane in the amount of approximately \$300,000.

AGENDA ITEM 4

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

a. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates to Council:

- DHCD – received an extension on the ARC grants for work at Big Cherry, \$1.5 million for water, sewer and electrical; \$875K plus \$150K from Friends of Southwest Virginia and Town match for road work, drainage, bridges on the trails, new trails and overlook work. The extension is until September 2027.

- July 4th events are going well but weather has impacted a couple of the events. Pickleball tournament was successful with 36 pickleball teams. We had 10 basketball teams, hotdog contest was today with the winner eating 7 hotdogs. Tomorrow is Gospel night, Karaoke on Thursday, and Friday's 4th events are the Pancake Breakfast 8AM-11AM and the Freedom 5K Run starting at 9AM by the Gap Corporation. The parade will start at 4 with the Grand Marshall's being the fire fighters that were awarded 20 years of service, had a sign made for them for the parade.
- The new cross on the Downtown Tank was installed in one day.
- 1/3 of the sidewalk on Clinton has been repaired and work is still being done.
- Starting today there will begin a big push on Blue Highway Festival's marketing and advertising campaign.
- Thanks to everyone that came to the Garfield Long Sr. Cemetery dedication. It was a great event.

AGENDA ITEM 5 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 6 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Lyke talked about the dessert and hotdog eating contests. She said 1st place dessert went to the Arnold Palmer Cupcake; 2nd place Pecan Sweet Bread and 3rd was the fudge. She said the Dessert and Hot Dog eating contests have grown tremendously with the winner eating 7 hot dogs. She thanked Ked Meade and his staff for all their hard work. She also thanked Councilman Bloomer for the pickleball event. She said there were 29 entries at the Pet Show. She said the Little League boys won the State Tournament at Virginia Beach and the girls will be competing this weekend.

Councilman Hughes thanked all Town employees. He said he and Stephen Lawson attended the Big Stone Gap Buccaneers Scholarship presentation at Mountain Empire Community College. There were 33 scholarships presented to Union Highschool Senior, he said it is inspiring seeing so many young people continue their education here.

Councilman Bloomer said there were 36 teams at \$40 per team for the Pickleball Tournament. He said they raised \$1,440, \$720 went for prize money and \$720 will go to buy tables and chairs at the courts.

Councilwoman Bailey said the Garfield Long Sr. Cemetery dedication was a nice service and she was glad to attend. She thanked all the town employees. She said the brunch at the 404 Café and Creamery was wonderful.

Mayor Johnson thanked Councilman Bloomer for the pickleball event. He thanked all the town employees for the work they put it for the 4th of July week.

AGENDA ITEM 7 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm.

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