

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

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

August 12, 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. Tyler Hughes, Councilman
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman
 Hon. Aaron McKinney, Councilman

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

Staff Absent: Mr. Matt Russell, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM 2 - INVOCATION by Reverend Ray Moore, Christ Episcopal Church.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4 - ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Hughes, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of August 12, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5 – COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Joyce Palmer, President of the Lonesome Pine Heritage School, along with volunteers, came to ask for the plaques that were at the Armory to create a memory walk along the side of the Heritage Center. She said more people could see it at the School than at the hospital. She said she feel like she is in competition with Ballard and the Town to obtain the plaques. She said a letter was sent to Ballard to request the plaques. Stephen Lawson said Council does not usually talk during public comment, but he wanted to say Ballard was under contract to create a memorial park with purchase of the Armory and if not there then a memorial wall would be created near the library. He said Council would consider this as a third plan for plaques.

Adam Harris – 413 E River Street – came to Council asking for more parking at Italy Bottom Park. He said he would like to see angled parking with striping and handicap spaces. He said the removal of two trees there would make more spaces available.

James Terrell – 476 Ridge Place – came to address Council of the lack of enforcement of the removal of inoperable vehicles. He said it has been thirteen months since the Ordinance passed and has only seen two cars moved. He said when he looks out his window he sees multiple cars that are inoperable with weeds and overgrowth. He said either Wise County or someone on Council is not enforcing the Ordinance and needs to follow up and take action on this.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. Approval of minutes of Council Workshop Meeting of July 01, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of July 08, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- c. Departmental Reports for the month of July 2025.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, 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

Mr. Broskey reported that:

- Phase I – waiting on Railroad (since May).
- Phase 3 - working on permits.
- Sunrise Village – ARC fund was awarded, and the Coalfield Water Application will be submitted this week.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Projects Update

a. Ordinance 16-2025 – Revision Article 6 Zoning Ordinance

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm to receive public comment on the proposed revision of Article 6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm to receive public comment on the proposed revision of Article 6 of the Zoning Ordinance.

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

b. Ordinance 17-2025 – Revision Section 21-51 Sign Ordinance

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm to receive public comment on the proposed revision of Section 21-51 of the Sign Ordinance.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Commission on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 6:30 pm to receive public comment on the proposed revision of Section 21-51 of the Sign Ordinance.

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

c. Resolution 18-2025 – Fire Department Offices

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 18-2025 being a resolution approving the elected officers for the Big Stone Gap Fire Department as elected by the fire department membership on August 3, 2025 for a term of three years.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Bloomer, that Council approve Resolution 18-2025 being a resolution approving the elected officers for the Big Stone Gap Fire Department as elected by the fire department membership on August 3, 2025 for a term of three years.

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

d. Resolution 19-2025 – Non-Discrimination Policy

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 19-2025 being a resolution stating the non-discrimination policy of the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve Resolution 19-2025 being a resolution stating the non-discrimination policy of the Town of Big Stone Gap.

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

e. Proclamation – Handi Kandi Services

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a Proclamation welcoming Elizabeth Napier, owner of Handy Kandi Services located at 301 Wood Avenue East in Big Stone Gap.

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, that Council approve a Proclamation welcoming Elizabeth Napier, owner of Handy Kandi Services located at 301 Wood Avenue East in Big Stone Gap.

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

Nays: None Abstain: None Absent: None

f. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates:

- Small Business Association asked Council for \$5,000 - still waiting to hear on what the money would be spent on.
- Special Use Permit – August 6th spoke with Stephen Murray and told him to submit a formal letter outlining the intended process.
- Planning Commission had asked about parking at Italy Bottom Park, and to also address the public comment by Adam Harris, the current housing development plan for Italy Bottom includes that the Green Belt tie-in will be where the ask is for parking. As plans go forward we will look at changes that can be made to accommodate more parking.
- Planning Commission ask for parallel parking being reinstated on the northside of East 5th Street to the corporate limits – there has been no contact with VDOT or anyone professional, but going out and looking would not recommend that the request be approved.
- Council comment at corner by Food City onto Shawnee – has not talked to property owner but there is a power pole there that could be an issue. Again, VDOT has not been contacted.
- Council request for tree trimming has been taken care of by Town crews in that alley.
- LED lighting at Bullitt Park went well with some concern about a glare light along the track and lighting behind the visitor bleachers, all this has been taken care of.
- There are some ruts and places where the asphalt needs to be repaired, and we are looking to concrete the area rather than fix asphalt at Bullitt Park.
- Councilwoman Bailey asked if requests were still being taken for paving and Mr. Lawson replied yes, Bailey said there was a large pothole on West 1st Street that needs repair along with West 3rd Street. Councilwoman Lyke said Azalea Lane not paved in several years.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 10 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman McKinney said he was at the park for a P-Nut game Saturday, and the lights looked nice.

Councilwoman Lyke said she attended the car show and to help the Union Highschool Color Guard's Bake Sale. She said there was a big turnout for the car show and congratulated the Town on the Tourism Award and thanked all the town employees.

Councilman Hughes congratulated Ked Meade on the tourism team award. He thanked Council and the Town for supporting Mountain Music School events. He said the new sidewalks are looking great in Town. He said articles about healthcare and population that could impact our area. He said we need to stay aware and informed so we can support our community. He thanked the Police, Fire, EMS and all the town employees.

Councilman Gilley said we are all very proud of Ked and this is a big accomplishment. He said he saw the lights Tuesday night and thought they really looked good.

Councilman Bloomer said congratulations to Ked and thanked all the town employees. He said the car event was great and he went down to see the lights and thought they looked nice.

Vice-Mayor Bailey thanked and congratulated Ked on the award. She said the car show was amazing and is thrilled to see how it has grown since her and David put the show on. She thanked all the staff for the great turnout.

Mayor Johnson thanked all the town employees and Ked. He said Billie Jean Scott's birthday is tomorrow at the Heritage Hall dining room and Council's presence there would make her day.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Lyke, seconded by Gilley, 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 7:11 pm.

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