

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

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

September 02, 2025

6:30 PM

**AGENDA ITEM 1
Call to Order and Roll Call**

Mayor Johnson called the September 02, 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

Council Absent:

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

Staff Absent: Mr. Charles Bledsoe, Town Attorney

Planning Commission Present: Ms. Amy Hubbard – Vice-Chairwoman
Mrs. Freda Bishop – Member
Mr. Kent Gilley – Member
Mr. Adam Harris - Member
Mr. Lorenzo Rodriquez – Member

Planning Commission Absent:

Ms. Wendy Warden,– Chairwoman
Mr. Brian Jones, Member
Mr. Greg Kress, Member
Mr. John Morrissey – 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 Ordinance 17-2025 – Revision Article 6 Zoning Ordinance and asked for public comment.

No comments from the public were made.

Mayor Johnson closed the Joint Public Hearing for Ordinance 17-2025.

AGENDA ITEM 3

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing for Ordinance 17-2025 – Revision Section 21-51 Sign Ordinance and asked for public comment.

No comments from the public were made.

Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing for Ordinance 17-2025 and reconvened the Council Workshop Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 4 - REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES

Review of draft of minutes of the Council Workshop of August 05, 2025 and the Regular Council Meeting of August 12, 2025.

AGENDA ITEM 5

TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

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

- The Coalfield Water Application did not get approved for the Sunrise Village water project.
- Had a meeting with VDOT and they are wanting to look at different alternatives for the sidewalk. Will be meeting again to discuss changes since they did not like the proposed route that had been chosen and will need to filter in the cost since it will be more expensive since the original application in 2018.

AGENDA ITEM 6

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

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

Asking Council approve Ordinance 16-2025 being an ordinance revising Article 6 Zoning Ordinance.

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

Asking Council to approve Resolution 17-2025 being an ordinance revising Section 21-51 Sign Ordinance.

c. Parade Permit – UHS Homecoming Parade

Asking Council to approve the parade permit for the Union High School Football Homecoming parade scheduled for Thursday, October 16th, 2025 at 6:00 pm.

d. Proclamation – Katelyn Witt

Asking Council to approve a proclamation recognizing Katelyn Witt.

e. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates to Council:

- a. Sunrise Village application was denied due to there was more money asked than what was available.

Projects Update (continued)

- b. Stephen Lawson, Amanda Hawkins and Jon Broskey met with VDOT regarding the sidewalk at the Library; their proposal was to cross Rt. 58 at the top of Museum hill and to use the existing sidewalk then cross back over to Rt. 58 to the library sidewalk. This is unacceptable and not safe. The Town will be putting their own alternative plan which is to use the existing stairway and provide handicap access.
- c. Paving is done in most areas. There are issues to be resolved before paving can be completed at the new Post Office parking lot.
- d. The Town will be paving at Bullitt Park from the front gate to the tree. Water into the park will be extended for a potential new splash pad. The plan is to lay two sleeves in there for both electrical and water for any future needs. Behind the visitor's bleachers has been repaved and the sand pit will need to be fixed where it got damaged while doing the new lights. Gary Lawson had a meeting with a track resurfacing company but have not spoken to him about the details of the meeting.
- e. Blue Highway Festival is on track and has surpassed last year's sales. Powell Valley National Bank is doing a commercial to promote the Festival and will be aired on the tv during the Union football game.
- f. Ribbon Cutting for the Bus Stop Artisan Market and Workshop is September 3rd at 11:30 am.
- g. The cabin is down. The logs that could be saved have been put aside and will talk to Mr. Meador about those. Clean-up will be completed by end of week. Will be getting an engineer to evaluate the stability of the chimney. Will be getting a price for a shade structure to place a memorial plaque for the cabin.
- h. Future Council meeting changes are as follows:
October 7, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting is cancelled
October 14, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
November 5, 2025 Council Workshop Meeting
November 12, 2025 Regular Council Meeting.
- i. In reference to the Audit Letter Council received, we turned in the information needed September 12, 2024. The auditing company is behind, City of Norton just recently got their audit completed, audits for other municipalities are not completed. Last year letters for audit services were sent out to six companies, one responded, Rodefer and Moss. Rodefer and Moss have also stated they will no longer be doing town audits. The problem is the lack of auditors and accountants within the workforce. There is no solution at this time, but the Town is writing letters to inform why the audit is not completed.

AGENDA ITEM 8 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Hughes said thanks to all employees and Planning Commission for attending.

Councilman Gilley echoed Councilman Hughes response.

Councilman Bloomer echoed Councilman Hughes response and said the Skate Park Groundbreaking will be September 22nd, 2025 at 10 am.

Councilwoman Bailey also echoed Councilman Hughes response.

Mayor Johnson said thanks to Planning Commission, Ked and Council.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:51 pm.

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