

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

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

November 12, 2025

6:30 PM

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

Vice Mayor Bailey called the meeting to order.

Those Present: 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: Hon. Gary Johnson, Mayor

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

AGENDA ITEM 2 - INVOCATION by Pastor Emil Schenck of First Apostolic 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 November 12, 2025 be approved as presented. Motion resulted as follows:

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

AGENDA ITEM 5 – COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Shawn Eldridge, 1571 Main Avenue West, came to Council ask them to consider him as a candidate for one of the two seats that are open on the Planning Commission.

Adam Harris, 413 East River Street, came to ask Council to look at getting handicap automated doors for the front of Town Hall.

AGENDA ITEM 6 - GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS**a. Approval of minutes of Regular Council Meeting of October 14, 2025.****Recommended Action: Approve as presented.****b. Departmental Reports for the month of October 2025.****Recommended Action: Received and filed.**

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

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

AGENDA ITEM 7 - TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Lawson gave the Town Engineer's Report in absence of Jon Broskey:

- Sunrise Village contract negotiations with ARC-DHCD was today and allows 120 days to get bids out and award to the contractor. We are looking for a new strategy to bid for a larger project to save money on materials.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**a. Parade Permit – Christmas Parade**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a Parade Permit for the Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 beginning at 6:00PM.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a Parade Permit for the Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday, December 4, 2025 beginning at 6:00PM. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

b. Proclamation – Black Horse Cycles LLC

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a proclamation welcoming Joey Grubb owner of the Black Horse Cycles LLC located at 104 East 5th Street North.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a proclamation welcoming Joey Grubb owner of the Black Horse Cycles LLC located at 104 East 5th Street North. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

c. Organizational Meeting

Mr. Lawson asked Council to set an Organizational Meeting for December 9, 2025 at 7:30PM to be held in the Council Chambers.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council set an Organizational Meeting for December 9, 2025 at 7:30PM to be held in the Council Chambers. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

d. RESOLUTION 23-2025 – Appoint Tyler McFarland to Planning Commission

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve Resolution 23-2025 being a resolution appointing Tyler McFarland to the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to fulfill the remainder of Wendy Warden's term which shall expire January 16, 2026.

Motion by Bloomer, seconded by Hughes, that Council approve Resolution 23-2025 being a resolution appointing Tyler McFarland to the Big Stone Gap Planning Commission to fulfill the remainder of Wendy Warden's term which shall expire January 16, 2026. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

e. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates:

- The Italy Bottom Rehab project started today with Adam Harris being named Chair and Sandra Jones Vice-Chair. We are getting a list of contractors together and the rehab specialist will go to each home that was selected and confirm the list is correct in determining on what needs to be completed.
- The Pump Track is ahead of schedule, if the weather holds it will be completed before Christmas. We will do the Grand Opening in the spring. We do have money for the Grand Opening Ceremony but would like to ask local people and businesses to donate bikes, skateboards, etc. to do a drawing to give them to kids. There will be signs that helmets are required and to use the skate park at your own risk.
- The Campground Ordinance was not put to a vote at this meeting because it needs more work to the wording, and due to Councilman Hughes and Mayor Johnson's comments from the Workshop Meeting, and other concerns.
- Black Horse Cycles ribbon cutting is Friday, November 21, 2025 at 12:00PM.
- Council was asked to check their emails regarding some information that had been sent on employees.
- Aldi Grocery is offering a Thanksgiving Dinner for \$40 that will serve 10 people. The Town will purchase 40 meals, 20 for Thanksgiving and 20 for Christmas. Recipients must be able to cook the meal. The Town received names from different Organizations and local Citizens of families or individuals that would need a meal in each section of Town. The Police Department will deliver the food boxes in the Bear Car.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 10 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilwoman Lyke agreed about the meals being needed. She said Trinity Methodist Church volunteers to do a meal every month. She said the Health Wagon is giving away a non-cooked meal November 20th at the Fairgrounds in Wise as a drive-thru. She said congratulations to Adams Harris and Turk Hollinger, and she thanked Nancy Bailey and Aaron McKinney for all they have done. She reminded Council of the Festival of Trees at the Museum and asked each of them to support this event.

Councilman Bloomer congratulated Turk Hollinger and Adam Harris. He said the Veteran's Day Parade had a good turnout and the Time Capsule opening was a great event. He thanked all the employees.

Councilman Gilley said congratulations to all. He said the Veteran's Day Parade was great. He thanked Shawn Eldrige for his help with the parade. He said it was a great time at the Time Capsule opening.

Councilman Hughes echoed the congratulations. He thanked all the Veterans. He also thanked Chief Russell and Stephen Lawson for the clarification on the Camping Ordinance. He said he would be glad to speak with State Legislators, Family Crisis Services or whoever to be able to expand our resources for the homeless. He thanked all the employees for what they do for the Town. He asked about leaf pickup and snow plowing. Mr. Lawson said the leaf truck had been broke down and it is getting fixed and Public Works have two employees out. Mr. Lawson said employees were out with snowplows.

Vice-Mayor Bailey congratulated Adam Harris and Turk Hollinger and said she knows we will be leaving the Town in good hands. She said it was a great Veteran's Day Parde this year and the Time Capsule opening was a great event.

AGENDA ITEM 11 - ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Nayes: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Johnson

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 pm.

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