

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

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

December 09, 2025

6:30 PM

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

Vice Mayor Bailey 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
Mr. Matt Russell, Chief of Police

AGENDA ITEM 2 - INVOCATION by Reverend Nathan Dugger of Trinity United Methodist Church.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

AGENDA ITEM 4 - ADOPT OR AMEND THE AGENDA

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Bloomer, that the Agenda for the Regular Council Meeting of December 09, 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 – PETITION FOR ORDINANCE VIOLATION

Dennis Shular, 1704 Shawnee Avenue East, came with a petition for Council that is self-explanatory and that he was concerned about property values. He brought a petition and said all the signatures were collected in one day and all residents ask Council to support this petition by denying the permit. He said Wise Zoning said it should not be allowed based on their interpretation. Stephen Lawson said we have this in our attorney's hands to get the interpretation.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

None

AGENDA ITEM 7 - GENERAL ORDER OF BUSINESS

- a. **Approval of minutes of Council Workshop Meeting of November 05, 2025 and the Regular Council Meeting of November 12, 2025.**
Recommended Action: Approve as presented.
- b. **Departmental Reports for the month of November 2025.**
Recommended Action: Received and filed.

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

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

AGENDA ITEM 8 - TOWN ENGINEER'S REPORT

Mr. Lawson said there were no new updates.

AGENDA ITEM 9 - TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

- a. **Resolution 24-2025 – VA Outdoors Foundation Signatory Authority**

Mr. Lawson asked Council to approve a Resolution 24-2025 being a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign all documents, agreements, and administer the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Grant #1673.

Motion by Hughes, seconded by Lyke, that Council approve a Resolution 24-2025 being a resolution authorizing the Town Manager to sign all documents, agreements, and administer the Virginia Outdoors Foundation Grant #1673. Motion resulted as follows:

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

Nayes: None Abstain: None Absent: None

b. Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates:

- Skate Park – weather permitting it should be completed by December 17th. He asked Council to do a walk through on December 15th at 2:30. Still waiting for concrete quote. Final compliance review with DHCD January 6th. He suggested waiting till Spring for the grand opening.
- Kenetha Cooper will be retiring at the end of December. She has 28 years of service. There will be an internal posting to fill that position before looking outside, will keep Council updated.
- Work continues on grants for Big Cherry, East Stone Gap and Italy Bottom. East Stone Gap got an extension for audit purposes. Italy Bottom is waiting on paperwork to be completed. Big Cherry after the first of the year will be getting a bid package out for civil engineering for water, sewer, ditch and road work before the warmer months.
- Zoning ordinance issues is in legal review.

AGENDA ITEM 10 - COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 11 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman McKinney said it has been a pleasure to serve on Council and encouraged everyone to keep moving forward.

Councilwoman Lyke said the Greenbelt in Lights is up and going and the parade went very well, she wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. She thanked all the employees and said Nancy and Aaron had been good ones.

Councilman Hughes said thanks to all the employees. He said Christmas Market went well and had received great comments on the interactive Christmas tree. He thanked Aaron and Nancy for their service and that Nancy was a great mentor for him.

Councilman Gilley thanked Aaron and Nancy, and he thanked all the employees and said it was a great parade and tree lighting.

Councilman Bloomer thanked Aaron and Nancy, and he had received great comments on the tree and the Greenbelt in Lights was great. He thanked all the employees for their hard work for the Holidays.

Vice-Mayor Bailey thanked everyone for their support and said that being on Council has been a wonderful experience and she appreciated being the Grand Marshall at the Christmas parade. She is thankful for this Community.

Mayor Johnson said he has enjoyed working with Aaron and Nancy and that Nancy is one of the longest serving Council members. He said the parade was marvelous with a great turnout and the tree is marvelous. He said the employees do a great job.

AGENDA ITEM 12 - 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 7:00 pm.

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