

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

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

June 02, 2026

6:30 PM

AGENDA ITEM 1

Call to Order and Roll Call

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order:

Council Present: Hon. Gary Johnson, Mayor
 Hon. Kent Gilley, Vice-Mayor
 Hon. Robert Bloomer, Councilman
 Hon. Adam Harris, Councilman
 Hon. W. Turk Hollinger, Councilman
 Hon. Tyler Hughes, Councilman *arrived at 7:01 pm
 Hon. Crystal Lyke, Councilwoman

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

Mayor Johnson recessed the Council Workshop Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – ORDINANCE 14-2026 GY2026-2027 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Johnson opened the Public Hearing – Ordinance 14-2026 FY2026-2027 Proposed Budget and asked for Public Comment.

No comments.

Mayor Johnson closed the Public Hearing Ordinance 14-2026 for FY2026-2027 Proposed Budget and reconvened the Council Workshop Meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 3 - REVIEW OF DRAFT MINUTES

Review of Draft Minutes of the Council Workshop Meeting of May 05, 2026, the Regular Council Meeting of May 12, 2026, the Special Council Meeting of May 19, 2026, the Public Utilities Committee Meeting of May 21, 2026, the Budget Finance Audit Committee Meeting of May 22, 2026, and the Special Council Meeting of May 22, 2026.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Robbie Boggs Veteran's Plaque at former Armory Property

Robbie Boggs stated that in 1995, his nephew, Charles Toney Eagle, completed the monument as an Eagle Scout project. Since that time, the Armory has been demolished, and the plaque is currently being stored at Ballard's Maintenance Department. Mr. Boggs said he recently visited the site to view the plaque.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Robbie Boggs Veteran’s Plaque at former Armory Property (Continued)

He asked the Council to consider reinstalling the plaque within the Town. Mr. Boggs stated that he has spoken with Mr. Lawson about establishing a designated area for the monument. The proposal would incorporate the monument into an upcoming Eagle Scout project. He noted that some funds have already been raised for the effort.

The vision for the project includes the monument, a United States flag, and flags representing each branch of the military. Mr. Boggs explained that the site could be expanded in the future with additional plaques and other Eagle Scout projects.

AGENDA ITEM 5 - TOWN ENGINEER’S REPORT

No report.

AGENDA ITEM 6 – TOWN MANAGERS REPORT**AGENDA ITEM 6a – Resolution 13-2026 – Reappointment of John Morrissey to Planning Commission**

Mr. Lawson stated that Resolution 13-2026 is for Council’s consideration to reappoint John Morrissey to the Planning Commission for an additional four-year term.

AGENDA ITEM 6b – Ordinance 14-2026 – FY2026-2027 Proposed Budget

Mr. Lawson stated that Ordinance 14-2026 is for Council’s consideration to approve the proposed FY2026-2027 Budget.

AGENDA ITEM 6c – Proclamation – Dandelion Darlin Boutique, LLC

Mr. Lawson stated that this proclamation is to recognize and welcome Dandelion Darlin Boutique, LLC to Big Stone Gap.

AGENDA ITEM 6d – Parade Permit – July 4th

Mr. Lawson stated that this item is for Council’s approval of the July 4th parade permit.

AGENDA ITEM 6e - Projects Update

Mr. Lawson gave the following updates:

- In-person early voting for the August 4, 2026 Democratic and Republican Primary will begin Thursday, June 18, 2026, and end Saturday, August 1, 2026. Voting will be available at the General Registrar’s Office, 5607 Patriot Drive, Wise, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM. Additional early voting hours will be available Saturday, July 25, and Saturday, August 1, from 9:00 AM–5:00 PM, and Sunday, July 19, and Sunday, July 26, from 12:00 PM–5:00 PM. Ballot drop boxes will be available at the same location during early voting hours. An additional drop box will be available at the General Registrar’s Office on Monday, August 3, from 8:30 AM–5:00 PM. Drop boxes will also be available at all regular polling locations on Election Day, August 4, from 6:00 AM–7:00 PM.
- Paving on Country Boy Hill is scheduled to begin after 8:30 AM and is expected to take approximately three days. Ditch work will also be completed during the paving process.
- All dead limbs have been removed from the treehouse, and the playground has reopened.
- Track resurfacing began today, and the track will remain closed for approximately 10 days.

AGENDA ITEM 6e - Projects Update (continued)

- Asphalt has been installed at the Skate Park. The road will be paved at a later date to align with the sidewalk and address drainage needs.
- A proposal for a Skate Park competition has been received. Staff will review credentials for those involved in organizing the event.
- An individual visited the Visitors Center and will meet with staff tomorrow. He has offered to provide skateboard lessons for individuals who may be new to the sport. He has previous Parks and Recreation experience in the western United States.
- Next week is National Garden Week. The Town will host a Garden Club presentation at the Visitors Center on Tuesday, June 9. Time is still to be determined.
- Juneteenth is a federal holiday; however, it is not a scheduled holiday for the Town of Big Stone Gap.
- The Bland School Reunion will be held August 8–9 and will include a historical marker unveiling. Council members are invited to attend.
- The LOVE sign is complete and being stored until the concrete pad is poured. It will be installed near the former train car location in the near future.
- The mural project is currently on hold due to a disagreement between the building owner and the artist. Staff will explore the possibility of using another building for the mural.

AGENDA ITEM 7 – COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

AGENDA ITEM 8 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION

Councilman Harris reported that he attended Gathering in the Gap and volunteered during the event. He said several attendees approached him with questions regarding overgrown foliage near the vendor area and whether the Town planned to address the maintenance or if it was the responsibility of the Museum. Councilman Hughes stated that the Park is responsible for maintaining the grounds. Councilman Harris also shared that he was asked about the ownership of the steps leading from the Slemple Library to the Museum and whether there were plans to have them pressure washed. Council confirmed that the County owns the steps, and Mr. Lawson stated that the Town would review the matter.

Councilman Hollinger said he was pleased with the success of Gathering in the Gap. He noted that he was out of town during the event and would also be away this weekend but would return on Monday.

Councilman Hughes apologized for arriving late and shared that he will be traveling to Ireland next week. He thanked all Town employees, Fire, and EMS personnel for their efforts. He stated that Gathering in the Gap was a success despite intermittent rain and that the event had a very good turnout.

Councilwoman Lyke thanked everyone who attended Gathering in the Gap and those who volunteered. She also noted that she would be out of town this weekend and expressed appreciation to all Town employees.

Vice-Mayor Gilley thanked the Town employees and expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bledsoe.

AGENDA ITEM 8 - COUNCIL COMMENTS AND DISCUSSION (Continued):

Mayor Johnson thanked Council for their efforts and stated that the Town will continue working together to help Big Stone Gap grow. He shared that a citizen recently told him Big Stone Gap is the best place to eat, and he agreed.

AGENDA ITEM 9

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned 7:01 pm.

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