

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting – May 22, 2018

- I. CALL TO ORDER** – Mayor Renee Castiglione called the special meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 22, 2018 within the council chambers located at 403 Beech Mountain Parkway, Beech Mountain North Carolina 28604. Other Council Members present were Berry Hoffman, Carl Marquardt, Weidner Abernethy and Wendell Saur. A quorum was present. Attorney Stacy C. Eggers, IV was not present. Staff present included Town Manager Tim Holloman, Director of Infrastructure Robert Heaton, Chief of Police Tim Barnett, Fire Chief Robert Pudney, Recreation Director Sean Royall, Assistant Recreation Director Kate Prisco, Special Projects Director Riley Hatch, Planning Director Preston Yates, Public Works Superintendent Mathew Clawson, Utility Superintendent Daniel Davis, Building Inspector John Merritt, Planning Department Intern Rachel McCoy and Finance Officer/Deputy Clerk Steve Smith.
- II. Adoption of Agenda** – Mayor Castiglione called for a motion to add the Pledge of Allegiance to the agenda. Mr. Abernethy made the motion to add the Pledge as the next item. Mr. Saur seconded the motion. Mayor Castiglione called for discussion and as there was none and therefore called for a vote. Measure was approved by all.
- III. Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. Tourism and Development Authority Presentation** – Kate Gavenus Director of the Tourism and Development Authority (TDA) presented a power point presentation to the Council. Ms. Gavenus stressed the link between the TDA and the Town. That the TDA plays a vital role in the growth of the Town. Ms. Gavenus gave a brief history of the TDA, its foundation and make up. She also gave a run down on some year to year statistical information on the growth of the TDA, with major emphasis on the number of contacts with visitors made in the Visitor Information Center. Also covered was how the TDA Board awards grants and how this method changed so that there are two award periods one in June and another in January. Ms. Gavenus reviewed for Council some of the major goals and their outcomes, such as the paving of Buckeye Creek road, the 20-20 Vision Committee and others. The final part of the presentation focused on the 2018-2019 fiscal year budget. Total revenues projected to \$376,954 and total expenditure at \$376,954. In closing Ms. Gavenus mentioned the great staffing of the Visitor’s Information Center of Elain, Lauren and herself.
- V. 2018 – 2019 Budget Discussion** – Town Manager Tim Holloman presented to Council through a power point presentation the highlights of the 2018-2019 fiscal year proposed budget. Mr. Holloman touched on the projected revenues and expenditures for the General Fund as well as the debt service payments required for the upcoming year. Mr. Holloman reviewed the same items in both the Water Utility and the Sanitation Utility Funds. Other highlights mentioned in relation to the proposed budget included, property tax rate remains 73.2 cents per one hundred dollars in value, utility monthly bill increase of four percent, a one percent COLA and one and half percent merit pay increase and the amount of fund balance available as of June 30th, 2017. At this point Mr. Holloman opened a discussion with

councilmembers regarding their concerns with the proposed budget. Mayor Castiglione asked about the take home patrol cars and if this has been incorporated into this budget. The Mayor also expressed concern with those extra miles that may be driven and whether there is a policy in place outlining what is expected from the officers. The Mayor also suggested along with Councilmember Kaufman that a full accounting be presented to council at the close of the next budget year. Mr. Holloman responded by saying that he viewed this program as a pilot program and that a policy has been written and the staff would provide results of the first year operation for review during the 2019-20 budget process. Councilmember. Abernethy expressed his desire to stay focused on the infrastructure improvements needed within the town and was pleased with the effort that this budget goes toward that purpose. Councilmember. Marquardt emphasized that utility projects are in the works. That maybe you're not seeing anything going on with construction but these projects are evolving and will go into construction phase in the near future. Councilmember Abernathy referred to the budget ordinance and asked if there is any limit on the amount the town manager can transfer from one department to another and if intrafund transfers can be done by the town manager. Mr. Holloman stated that there is no limit and intrafund transfers are allowed but that interfund transfers are not (ex. Transfers from General to Utility) and those would require council action. Councilmember. Marquardt asked about the current project list of streets to be paved in this budget. Mr. Holloman listed Skiway Circle, Skiway Rd and Village Creek Road if the homeowners agree. Mayor Castiglione revisited the change to the eligibility for employees to receive Longevity and Bonus pay and wanted to make sure that all Councilmembers understood the change and agreed to the change. There was no further discussion on the matter. The Mayor opened the floor for questions from those in attendance. Mr. Frank Steel of 107 Christie Way wanted to thank Kate Gavenus for the outstanding work and leadership she provides the TDA and Visitor's Center and implored Council to help her in the effort. Mr. Steel also thanked Susie Knepka for all the tireless effort she puts forth for the Beech Mountain community.

Renee D. Castiglione, Mayor

ATTEST:

Steve Smith
Deputy Town Clerk