



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 14, 2020
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Barry Kaufman
Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi
Councilmember Weidner Abernethy
Councilmember Kelly Melang
Councilmember Erin Gonyea

COUNCIL EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Stacy Eggers, IV
Interim Town Manager Bob Pudney
Town Clerk Tamara Mercer
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch
Finance Officer Steve Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1 The invitation to Join Town Council Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/8649875542>

Meeting ID: 864 987 5542

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 864 987 5542

Either log-in or dial-in using the above referenced link or Toll-free numbers, then enter Meeting ID: 864 987 5542

Or please watch the meeting through the website portal:

<https://townofbeechmountain.civicweb.net/Portal/MeetingInformation.aspx?Org=Cal&id=148>

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 2.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to adopt the agenda, by roll call the vote was taken and recorded and Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 4.1. Public Comment was solicited and advertised, and no one elected to submit a comment. Mr. Pudney stated that a resident from Pinnacle Inn submitted a concern by email, but she did not wish for it to be read during the regular meeting.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.1. Adoption of Minutes - February 25, 2020 Special Work Session, March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes, March 15, 2020 Emergency Meeting COVID-19, March 27, 2020 Special Meeting COVID-19

Motion

Erin Gonyea made a motion adopt minutes of February 25, 2020 Special Work Session, March 10, 2020 Regular Meeting minutes, March 15, 2020 Emergency Meeting COVID-19, March 27, 2020 Special Meeting COVID-19 Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 5.2. 2020 Audit Contract with C. Randolph CPA, PPLC

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the contract as presented: 2020 Audit Contract with C. Randolph CPA, PPLC and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 5.3. Resolution to accept SRP increased funding

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2020-04 2018 Sewer System Rehabilitation Project (DWI Project No. E-SRP-W-17-0104) purpose is for additional \$200,000 of SRP loan proceeds, due to higher cost of construction, Town Staff applied for and received approval of an additional ten percent (10%) increase in the SRP funding, the maximum amount available from the State SRP and Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

5.4. 2018 Collection System Capital Project Budget Ordinance Amendment

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve 2018 Collection System Capital Project Budget Ordinance Amendment adjustment to expenditures \$200,000 for Collection System Rehabilitation Project (SWI # E-SRP-W-17-0104) and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

5.5. Buckeye Creek Road Paving Amendment No. 2020-01 to 2020 Budget Ordinance

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve appropriated funds for the asphalt paving work on Buckeye Creek Road for an amendment to 2020 Budget Ordinance No. 2020-01 and Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

5.6. Water & Wastewater Utility Budget Amendment

Motion

Erin Gonyea made a motion to approve the Water & Wastewater Utility Budget Amendment No. 2020-02 and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

6. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

6.1. Mr. Pudney reviewed the Town Manager's report and noted that the approved budget amendments allows the Town to move forward paving the back gate on Buckeye Creek Road, and to continue the Public Works Facilities construction project, and the budget amendment for the water and sewer rehabilitation project is now in place.

Mr. Pudney addressed the Covid-19 responses and impacts as follows:

- Town Hall/ town buildings posted as closed to public traffic
- Short term rentals prohibited as of 3-26-2020
- Business closures
- TDA created and is hosting a team to educate and assist town businesses with Federal and State loans and funding applications. 10 businesses applied
- Stay at home order
- 14-day quarantine
- Notification Traffic sign set up at Town entrance
- Emergency information posted on the Website, social media, Town Hall door.
- Utilities disconnections are prohibited
- Parks, courts, playgrounds closed, posted
- Cancelled all board and committee meetings
- Cancelled all recreation activities

- Remote Council meetings set up as per best practices guidelines
- Parks and Recreation Remote exercise classes developed
- Protection of workforce/ separation of Workforce crews
- Remote working select leadership
- Leave/ vacations canceled for employees
- Out of area restrictions
- Sick leave policy to comply with eFMLS & Emergency Family Medical Leave Act
- Do not come to work when sick policy
- PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) protocols for fire and police response
- Modified dispatch criteria for medical calls

Town is doing everything within the law to protect the community. The business closures will have a tremendous impact and economic loss. The Police Department is educating those travelers who are reported as arriving on the mountain regarding the travel restrictions in place and the required 14 day quarantine. There is limited delivery by the Police Department supplying medications and groceries to those residents at greatest risks in the community.

Mr. Pudney provided a status report on the various projects around town. The bathroom at Lake Coffey has the foundation poured and the framing is underway, and the completion date is set for June as well the new Public Works Facilities project is under construction and funded.

Shane Park has had final plans reviewed. Permitting is back on track and the work is to begin the week of April 20th. The Buckeye Creek Road paving project includes culvert replacement and/or upgrades, manholes, valve boxes raised and ditches reconfigured, as well grading and paving is slated to start at the end of April.

The Watauga Water Intake project website is in progress. The RFP for a public relations firm is advertised in order to educate and reach out to surrounding community and the county regarding the Water Intake project. Mr. Robert Heaton will spearhead that leadership team, as he is the best resource regarding the history and has institutional knowledge on the issue. He is working with the engineer, Benjie Thomas, Mr. Pudney himself, Ms. Sandy Carr and Kate Gavenus from the TDA, and Mr. Urs Gsteiger.

The 2018 Water & Sewer line replacement contract was awarded to Iron Mountain and will begin next week. The contractor meeting is scheduled. We needed to increase the loan funding to \$200,000 due to unforeseen changes.

We have chosen a vendor for the town website after receiving quotes and the development team is waiting for the approval of the upcoming fiscal year budget. The new Public Works Facility construction is on schedule. The foundation is poured for the buildings. The steel is set for the recycling center.

The preliminary draft for the FY:2020-2021 Annual Budget will be ready to

be sent to Council for the initial review. There will be an Operations section separate from the Capital section. Capital projects will be listed in priority. This budget is aggressive on infrastructure projects as was directed by Council at their Planning Retreat in January. The public hearing and next meeting will be conducted remotely.

Mr. Pudney said questions regarding the proposed budget can be conducted with Administration and Finance. The budget is not ready for public debate yet but will be ready for the Public Hearing May 12, 2020 and June 9, 2020. Council will receive a hard copy and an electronic copy for review on April 21, 2020.

It is National 911 Dispatch Appreciation Week and Mr. Pudney is buying our dispatch team lunch. Police Chief Tim Barnett graduated from UNC SOG Municipal and County Administration Government class which he has been attending the training throughout the past year. Mr. Pudney reminded everyone to stay home and stay safe.

- 6.2. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 6.3. Police Department Monthly Report
- 6.4. March 2020 Parks & Recreation Report
- 6.5. February Financial and Budget Report
- 6.6. Planning and Inspections Report 2020-03
- 6.7. Department of Infrastructure Reports

7. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 7.1. Councilmember Abernethy referred to the State of Emergency noting that Mr. Pudney is balancing procedures and managing staff in an unstable situation and his performance is positive and outstanding.

Vice Mayor Accardi agreed and thanked Mr. Pudney for a great job, to which Councilmember Gonyea stated his leadership is immeasurable. She stressed people to be flexible, to work with law enforcement and the Public Works department, and for citizens and businesses to be safe. Councilmember Melang said 'ditto', stay safe and quarantine.

Mayor Kaufman inquired into the seasonal cleanup, to which Mr. Pudney said crews were dispatched to specific areas such as North Pinnacle Ridge, Pine Ridge Road, the crews specifically target Beech Mountain Parkway and he further discussed the mowing schedule. It was stated that after the pandemic is lifted, an employee luncheon would be scheduled. Mr. Pudney reviewed the procedure for working with the remote meeting software to move into closed session and Mayor Kaufman asked for a motion to recess the open meeting.

Motion

Jimie Accardi made a motion to recess the open meeting and move into the closed session and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(6) PERSONNEL MATTERS

- 8.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to reconvened from the closed session into open session.

Motion

Jimie Accardi made a motion to reconvene the meeting to the open session and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- 9.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to amend the agenda adding Other Business - Personnel

Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to amend the Interim Town Manager, Bob Pudney's salary and to increase it by \$15,000.

Motion

Jimie Accardi made a motion to amend the agenda to add the topic Other Business and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Motion

Erin Gonyea made a motion to increase the Interim Town Manager's salary by \$15,000, effective and retroactive April 1, 2020 and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- 10.1. There being no further business, Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 5:10 p.m.

Note: the minutes are not a verbatim transcript of the proceedings.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to adjourn and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain