



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, August 8, 2023
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 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

COUNCIL EXCUSED:

STAFF PRESENT: Attorney Stacy Eggers, IV
Town Manager Bob Pudney
Interim Town Clerk Emily Haynes

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve the agenda Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. General Public Comments

Robert McMichael of 710 Pine Ridge Road thanked the council for opposing the request to add more signs through out the town in last months meeting. The town should take a look at the signage now that we have the new signs and should consider removing the extra signs. Just across the road within a couple car lengths there are three signs for the resort, two of which just have

markers on them that are significantly different. Stated the extra signs are a distraction and clutter. Mr. McMichael then expressed his support for the Water Bond stating the town has a need for water supply. He thanked the staff and council who have been working towards securing grants for paying for this project. The cost exceeds what we will potentially receive in grants and if the bond is passed we will need to use it. I'd like to make that clear to all the taxpayers and have everyone understand that the bonds aren't a rainy day fund incase we don't get the grants. We are probably going to have to use them I'd like to make that clear for the future council who will actually have to issue those bonds and find the money to pay for them is not a surprise to the taxpayers. When discussing the bond in the future please give us an update on how much you think its really going to cost so we have an idea on how much we might need to issues bonds for and borrowing money.

Therese Barry of 100 Squirrel Lane stated she had seen a post on social media of a dog attack a where both animal and person were injured. Assuming the post is true the town needs to make the ordinances clear regarding dogs. I some years ago was attacked by a Great Dane who probably weighed as much as I do, I wasn't hurt expect for skinned knees but this is definitely a problem more and more dogs running around the town under no control is an issue that needs to be addressed. I think the rule is they must be under verbal control of the owner. Ms. Barry also stated her opinion on the Beech Mountain Ear I believe it used to be edited and you need an editor now not all but some of it is badly written. The newsletter going unedited reflects poorly on the town.

Gary Fairman of 120 Lower Grouse Ridge Road I read the letter about water that came out recently and one thing that I didn't see that would like to talk about is additional storage. As I understand it the problem isn't that we don't have enough water its that during days that we don't have rain we don't have sufficient over flow at the current location of the water plant to meet the requirement. why wouldn't we store water above the lake that we pull water out of? Three acre feet is about a million gallons of water so any where that we have a steep place in a creek above the lake seems like we could dam the creek and flood about a half acre or an acre, 6-8 feet high and have quite a bit of water stored so when we have heavy rains and have excess water we can store for the days we don't have water. I don't feel damming a creek would cost that much and maybe it has already been considered but it just seemed like it was worth mentioning.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

- 6.1.** Adoption of Minutes
- 6.2.** Emerald Outback Lease

Motion

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

- 6.3.** 2018 Water System Rehabilitation Project DWI # H-SRP-D-18-0126 Amendment #1

Motion

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

7. NEW BUSINESS

- 7.1. Resolution approving revisions to the Town of Beech Mountain Personnel Policy

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to approve Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.2. Acceptance of Funding Resolution NCDEQ Project SRP-W-0185

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion approve in order to move Project No. SRP -W-0185

Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.3. Call for a Public Hearing for Proposed Text Amendment on Driveway Connections

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to call for a Public Hearing to be held at the next regular meeting of the Town Council, Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 4:00 PM. Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.4. End Overdose in Watauga Day Proclamation

Mayor Barry Kaufman presented Proclamation to Mary McKinney.

8. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

- 8.1. Managers report and note updates

Project updates:

Town Hall / Visitors Center – on schedule, rain infiltration into both existing buildings. contractor has taken full responsibility.

Ski loft – out for bid, bid opening August 31st at 2:00 pm.

Oz lift station – waiting for components, structure and pump.

Pinnacle well site – on schedule, waiting for pumps.

Lake Coffey – design underway will begin Geotech drilling the first part of September. Still no official word on funding from either the state or FEMA.

General Obligation Bond is underway, all milestones have been met. It will be on the November 3, 2023, ballot.

Wynn Park sign underway, reminder this was funded 100% by the volunteer fire department.

Drainage improvements, culvert work on Tamarack and Charter Hills.

Vacant positions – accepting applications.

Planning board 2 board members
TDA 1 board member
Board of adjustment 1 board member

Page 112 – Financial report general fund as of 6/30 end of fiscal year. All departments finished within their budgets! 9.4% under total budget as well as accomplishing all budget objectives. **Thanks to all department heads.**

Page 113 and 114 – Water and Sanitation funds – all finished under budget.

Page 124 – Only two bear mess incidents. Proves the changes to the solid waste collection system are working.

Page 125 raw water totals – 734,000 gallons taken from Buckeye in one day. Well above what we usually do.
(Explain that we have slowed the water plant to reduce the impact on the lake, even though we have rain we cannot capture more than what the lake will hold.) **Still under phase 1 water restrictions.**

The third farmers market on August 5 was another success. Well, received by the community, the next event scheduled for September 1, 2023.

- 8.2. Finance Officer's Monthly Report
- 8.3. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 8.4. Police Department Monthly Report
- 8.5. DOI Monthly Report
- 8.6. Planning and Inspection Monthly Report for 2023-07
- 8.7. Recreation Report July 2023
- 8.8. TDA Report August 2023
- 8.9. FY 2023 Budget Adjustment

9. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 9.1. Councilmember Kelly Melang thanked the people who have signed up to serve the Town of Beech Mountain its amazing that we have five candidates for town council. Kelly announced she is running for the two year seat, not the four year seat. Thanked those who have committed to making this town the best that it can be. Farmers market has went great! The Parks and Recreation did the series of races, Run the Beech over four Fridays and they did a great job! The History Museum calendars are out they are available at the museum, all local photographers pictures of Beech Mountain and the calendars are donations to the museum. August 22nd at 2:00pm across from the museum they are dedicating a marker to Ray Hicks.

Councilmember Weidner Abernethy thanked the candidates that are running for town council, it is a thankless job. He thanked those candidates who attended the meeting and wished them good luck. Thank you to the town employees and staff. Beech Mountain is a continuous project that is looking better and the current council has done a good job with the direction we have moved the town in and we need to continue with forward motion.

Mayor Barry Kaufman thanked the candidates who attended and wished them best of luck. That when they get elected to follow the program this council has set fourth I think you can see the improvement in the town, a lot of people talk about taxes but look around and see the improvements of the town and how much has been done in the last 4-6 years that needs to be taken into consideration and follow through. Look around and see what this council has accomplished and you will understand why we did what we did.

10. ADJOURNMENT

- 10.1. Mayor requested a motion to adjournment a 4:49pm.

Motion

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

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain