



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 8, 2022
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, 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
Town Manager Bob Pudney
Town Clerk Tamara Mercer
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch

1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to call the meeting to order.

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to call the meeting to order and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adopt the agenda, but corrected a typo error on page 19, 'snow' plow not 'slow' plow.

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to accept the agenda with the aforementioned correction and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. **FEATURED LOCAL BUSINESS- ATLANTIC ALE HOUSE, JACOB GRIEB**

- 5.1. Mr. Pudney introduced Mr. Jacob Grieb owner of the Atlantic Ale House. Mr. Grieb said he and his wife opened their first location in Johnson City Tennessee eight years ago. This year they opened the second establishment on Beech Mountain. The Ale House provides local and regional craft beer bar, sours, and wine to the public. They do not serve food, but people are welcome to bring food from other restaurants. He thanked the Town for recognizing the new business.

6. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 6.1. Mayor Kaufman opened the public comment portion of the meeting.

Mr. Nick Wilson of Charter Hills Road requested Council to lower the tax millage rate and for the community to be involved and to review the budget. He questioned the colors of the town flag. Some are blue and some are white, and Mr. Wilson wants the flags to be the same color. Mr. Wilson disagreed with the yard debris policy. Currently collection is only four times a year and he has more leaves and yard debris than is allowed. The town should allow more bags of leaves and collections for properties. Mr. Wilson suggested that the councilmembers to spend time in each department. He pointed out that Vice Mayor Accardi was at the Convenience Center following staff and the sanitation procedures and he encouraged other members to follow departments.

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1. Adoption of Minutes- October 11, 2022, regular meeting, October 18, 2022, Neighborhood Skiloff Road Area infrastructure, September 13, 2022 & Oct. 11, 2022, Closed Session minutes
- 7.2. Budget Amendment Budget Ordinance No. 2019-10
- 7.3. 2019 PUBLIC WORKS FACILITY CAPITAL PROJECT ORDINANCE #2019-10

In response to Vice Mayor Accardi's question regarding this agenda item, Mr. Pudney explained that this was for the completion of the Public Works Facility Capital Project, and this ordinance closes out that project in the Finance Department.

Motion

Motion to close project ordinance #2019-10

- 7.4. FY 2023 Budget Ordinance Amendment #2023-01

Mayor Kaufman corrected a typo error on page 19 'snowplow' not 'slow plow'

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve the above items including the correction and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.5. 2022 Water System Service Line Replacements Capital Projects Budget Ordinance #2023-01

Motion

Approve the proposed Capital Budget Ordinance #2023-01

- 7.6. 2018 Collection System Rehabilitation Capital Project Ordinance DWI #E-SRP-W-17-0104

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion Recommend motion to close Capital Ordinance Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.7. Tax Release

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion Release the tax values for administration and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

- 8.1. Mr. Pudney reviewed the financial report noting the first quarter benchmarks for the fiscal year in the water and sewer and sanitation enterprise funds. He pointed out the budget amendment submitted for a vehicle, an item that was ordered but not received in the last budget calendar.

Skiloft Road improvement project neighborhood meeting was held on October 18, 2022, but was sparsely attended, updated Mr. Pudney. The town is working to obtain construction easements and agreements from property owners.

Lake Coffey Reservoir Update-

- Progress with the long-term agreement with the resort. One last issue to be resolved.
- Applications for grant funding update and submitted to the State by West Consultants
- Meeting with Hagerty Consulting for professional assistance with specific grants both federal and state.
- A proposal for Council's review will be forthcoming

Mr. Pudney announced the Planning Department launched the new IWORQs software for the permitting process, which can be found online on the Town's website portal at:

<https://beechmountain.portal.iworq.net/portalhome/beechmountain>, which was funded by Tourism Development Authority as this assist's new homeowners with the permitting process and application. TDA occupancy tax up 9.4%. The Ski Resort purchased the Alpen Inn, for their workforce staff and the Inn was converted to workforce afford housing.

There is a diesel fuel shortage, but the town has planned and stored a three-month supply in order to run vehicles and infrastructure. Mr. Pudney said the MAPS Groups Pay plan and study is underway. The employees participated in the questionnaire and completed by all employees' job description of job duties and responsibilities. There are one-on-one interviews with 50 employees scheduled for next week. The contract bids for the Town Hall and Visitor Center expansion project will conclude on Thursday, November 10th.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the departmental reports as:

Department Reports-

- Page 46 Parks and Recreation revenue is slightly higher over same period last year
- Page 48 Parks and Recreation held sixteen special events over a 31-day period
- Page 50 Planning and Building Inspections:
 - 140 permits over same period last year
- Page 51 Sixteen new homes permitted this quarter
 - IWorq online permitting and records management program up and running which was funded by the TDA
- Page 64 TDA occupancy tax up a record 9.4% over same period last year
- Page 67 workforce housing report – note Alpine Inn conversion to Ski Resort workforce housing

Diesel fuel shortage plan- plan to ensure the town can continue essential operations (snowplow and sanitation)

Christmas parade theme is “a Beary Merry Christmas”

- Parade is December 22nd at 4:00 pm beginning at Fire Station #1
- Contact Parks and Recreation for including a float in the parade
- Photos and hot chocolate with Santa at Town Hall immediately after the parade

Special “bears” will be handed out during the month of December.

- Stuffed bears from those who care will be given out by the Police and Fire Departments
- Bears for boo-boos will be handed out by our EMS personnel
- Look for random stuffed teddy bears placed on vehicles in public parking areas

Mr. Pudney recognized Veterans Day with a special thank you to all veterans for their service to our country. The Town and Public Works Department is ready for the forecasted snow.

8.2. Finance Director's Monthly Report

Motion

Review

8.3. Fire Department Monthly Report

8.4. Police Department Monthly Report

8.5. October 2022 Recreation Report

8.6. Planning and Inspection Monthly Report 2022-10

8.7. DOI Monthly Report

8.8. TDA November Report 2022

9. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

9.1. Vice Mayor Accardi thanked the TDA for funding the new software for the Planning Department assisting new homeowners. He addressed Mr. Wilson's comments regarding the flag color question, and asked staff to follow-up with a uniform color. Vice Mayor Accardi announced that the Town has open vacancies on Beech Mountain boards and citizens can apply to serve as a member. He thanked our veterans.

Councilmember Gonyea thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for all this year's fall events. She agreed Council should look at the milage rate next year.

Councilmember Abernethy requested to look at cutting costs, and he suggested reducing three employees to two employees at the recycling center. He requested residents to share insights and ideas during the budget process. The Council will evaluate the tax milage rate as the report on page 50 shows the town's growth. Numbers don't lie, we have doubled construction permits, and we are at a record pace for sustainable growth. The Town is in a better financial position and can reduce the milage rate. Councilmember Abernethy said he is in favor of expansion of the Town Hall as he has been in the Police Department. The building is too small. The TDA pays for half of the project with the Town.

In response to Councilmember Melang inquiry about the sanitation report, Mr. Pudney said the recycling numbers and the solid waste tonnage numbers are down from a year ago, as we deliver gross tonnage. He stated that it has helped that commercial properties are served by Republic and that waste is out of our waste stream.

Councilmember Melang noted that Shane Park is open until November and reiterated her thanks to our veterans, and that positions are open on boards and committees.

Mayor Kaufman said the tax rate review and budget process begins in January at the first budget retreat, the meetings open to the public. He also

encouraged citizens to participate on boards and committees. The Council will address the available positions in December and will look to fill appointments as this is an opportunity for citizens to voice opinions.

Link found at: https://townofbeechmountain.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Board.Application.Form_.Fillable.pdf

10. ADJOURNMENT

- 10.1. There being no further business, Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to adjourn the meeting and no second was needed seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain