



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Mayor Weidner Abernethy
Vice Mayor Kelly Melang
Councilmember Alan Villanova
Councilmember Art Beckmann
Councilmember M.W. Stanford

COUNCIL EXCUSED:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

- 1.1. Mayor Abernethy recognized UPS driver Todd Winkler for his 30 years of delivery service to Beech Mountain. Mayor Abernethy congratulated Mr. Winkler on his upcoming retirement and thanked him for his kindness and dedication to Beech Mountain.

Mayor Abernethy thanked and recognized Daniel Davis and Steve Smith for their efforts in receiving an one million dollar Golden Leaf Grant.

Mayor Abernethy congratulated Chief Bob Pudney who was voted onto the Watauga County EMS Board.

Mayor Abernethy recognized the Beech Mountain Historical Society. Mrs. Pat Wright thanked the Mayor for inviting the Historical Society to the Council Meeting. Several members and sponsors were in attendance. The founding member of the Beech Mountain Historical Society wrote the history of our community which was published in 2009. 2013 the Beech Mountain History Museum was opened. The museum is opened mid June through mid October each year Thursday- Sunday from 1:00pm-4:00pm. The museum is reliant solely to donations and volunteers. We strive to continually update our existing displays and introduce new exhibits. Last year the museum showcase mountain music and dedicated a legends and lore highway marker honoring

Ray Hicks and his legend as a storyteller. We will soon be approaching all of you to sponsor the 2025 calendar. Thank you for giving us this opportunity and for your support throughout the years.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

3.1. Mr.. Cyclone Brett held a moment of silence to remember Mr. Pete Chamberlain.

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. Barbara Piquet of 121 Hollow Tree Road- Over 20 years ago previous Council's and citizens had an interest in creating a memorial park for the Town of Beech Mountain. In 2001 the town began acquiring lots for the acquisition on Pinnacle Ridge Road, this was completed with a survey being done and a public hearing was held and the property was rezoned since that time nothing has been done. It is my sincere hope that Council will consider pursuing this project. I hope the council would consider a ciborium or even a small non-denominational chapel in the future.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. Adoption of Minutes

6.2. Amendment to the Source Water Development Capital Project

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Call for a Public Hearing on Various Ordinance Amendments

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to set a Public Hearing date for the next available regular meeting of the Town Council on **Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at 4:00 PM** in the Council Chambers and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7.2. 2024 Contract to Audit and Financial Statement preparation

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve the contract with Ms. Watson and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Town Manager's Comments:

1.Pete Chamberlin – passed away Wednesday March 27th. A formal Fire Department memorial service and plaque unveiling will be held at Wynn Park July 7th at 4:00 pm. The community is invited to attend.

2. Governors' Cabinet Meeting will be held tomorrow at Buckeye Recreation Center. This is a prestigious event for our town to host.

3.Pinnacle Ridge Well is “online” producing up to 100, 000 gallons per day, working on dialing the operation in, we are experiencing some air in the discharge, will be installing an air release valve.

4.The Skiloft project is underway, began on time April 1st. Demolition and valve work to isolate the neighborhood has been completed. The security plan with increased police patrols, lighting and drone coverage is working well.

5.The utility project will begin July 1st. Waiting on the contractor, Buckeye Bridge to update the schedule.
Area to include Meadowview Circle, Christie Way, Skiview Lane, Greenbrier, Hawthorne, Clubhouse, Chestnut Way.

6.Tamarack / Charter Hills, utility work is wrapping up, expect the paving to begin first week of May. Milling of existing pavement to be the first order of business.

7.Town Hall / Visitor Center – getting back on track, expect to release the trailer office for parking lot work the first of May. We are withholding a portion of each payment to the contractor due to delays.

8.Pond Creek Sewer Plant – we are experiencing a failure in some of the underground piping that is 40 years old. Will require the shutdown of the plant. Currently developing a plan to work around the issue with paypass pumping and use of existing tank capacity.

9.Budget is almost ready to go for April 17th. I plan to provide you a hard copy on the 15th. The proposal is balanced with the fund balance above 50%. We will need to discuss capital.

First public hearing on the budget will be on May 14th. As noticed.

10.Golden Leaf Grant – flood mitigation grant of \$995,000.00 for the

Greenbrier box culvert crossing near Lake Road. Thanks to Daniel Davis and Steve Smith for their work in obtaining this grant. The staff continues to seek grant dollars for important infrastructure work. We now have obtained 21.7 million dollars with 10 million pending.

- 8.2. Finance Officer's Monthly Report
- 8.3. Police Department Monthly Report
- 8.4. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 8.5. Planning and Inspection Monthly Report 2024-03
- 8.6. TDA Report April 2024
- 8.7. DOI Report March
- 8.8. March 2024 Recreation Report

9. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 9.1. Councilmember Art Beckmann- Thank you to each person who has a part in obtaining this grant money for the town. Thank you to the Historical Society for attending today's meeting.

Councilmember M.W. Stanford- I made myself available after last month's council meeting and no one came to discuss. However I will be available again this Thursday April 11th at 10:30am at the First Chair Coffee Shop.

Vice Mayor Kell Melang- Thank you to all the staff responsible for the grants the town has received. Please read the language for the Public Hearing before May 14th and bring any questions or suggestions you may have to council.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy- Thank you Barbara for bringing up the non-denominational chapel idea. I would like to see something like this occur on Beech Mountain. The Governor's Cabinet meeting at Buckeye Recreation tomorrow is progress for Beech Mountain. June 1st we are having a meet and greet at 1:00pm at our house regardless of your politics- NC senator Ralph Hise, US Congressman Virginia Fox, US Congressman from Florida, Multiple Judges. Not only our team here but others who helped the town acquire some of these grants.

10. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(3) ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS

- 10.1. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to enter into Closed Session.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to enter into closed session and M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to adjourn at 5:05pm.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain