



# MINUTES

## Regular Town Council Meeting

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

---

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, January 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  
Interim Town Clerk Emily Haynes  
Chief of Police Tim Barnett  
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. SPECIAL GUEST

2.1. Mayor Weidner Abernethy introduced Dr. Lee King and welcomed him to the meeting.

### 3. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

3.1. Mayor Weidner Abernethy requested a motion to adopt the agenda.

#### Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to adopt the agenda Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

### 4. INVOCATION- CHIEF TIM BARNETT

### 5. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

## 6. PUBLIC COMMENT

## 7. COUNCILMEMBER PLAQUES PRESENTED BY MAYOR ABERNETHY

- 7.1. Former Mayor Barry Kaufman  
Former Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi

## 8. CONSENT AGENDA

- 8.1. Adoption of Minutes
- 8.2. Adoption of Closed Session Minutes
- 8.3. Resolution #2024-07 Accepting Loan Increase for Project No. SRP-W-0185
- 8.4. Amendment to the 2022 Sewer Main Improvement Project Capital Project Budget
- 8.5. Capital Project Budget 2022 Water System Rehabilitation Project, NCDEQ No. DWSRP WIF2023
- 8.6. 2022 Water System Rehabilitation Project, NCDEQ Project No. DWSRP WIF 2023
- 8.7. To declare Capital Budget Ordinance No. 2022-05 closed
- 8.8. Creation of Skiloft Stormwater Capital Project Budget Ordinance
- 8.9. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to approve the consent agenda.

### Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the consent agenda Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## 9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9.1. Public Safety Drone Purchase

### Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve the purchase of a Public Safety Drone and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 9.2. Board and Committee appointments

Mayor Abernethy requested Council to nominate to the various vacancies on the Boards and Committees.

### Motion

Art Beckmann made a motion to re-appoint Dean Roberts to the Planning Board for a three-year term expiring December 2026 and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED.

unanimously.

**Motion**

Art Beckmann made a motion to re-appoint George Paddeck to the Planning Board for a three-year term expiring December 2026 and M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

Art Beckmann made a motion made a motion to nominate Tyler Hunter to fill the vacant position on the Planning Board that is expiring December 2024 and M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Pete Chamberlain to fill the 1st Alternate term to the Board of Adjustment expiring December 2024 Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Robert McMichael for the 2nd alternate term expiring December 2026 to the Board of Adjustment and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Freddy Harris for the 3rd alternate term expiring December 2026 to the Board of Adjustment and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Michel Armand to serve on the Board of Adjustment for a three-year term expiring December 2026 and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to nominate Dawn Dagleish to serve on the TDA Board for a three-year term expiring in December 2026 and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to nominate Fred Pfohl to serve on the TDA Board for a three-year term expiring December 2026 and M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Jane Miller to serve on the Tree Board for a three-year term expiring December 2026 and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to nominate Francis Edwards to fill a vacant position on the Tree Board with the term expiring December 2026 and Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **10. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **10.1. Town Managers comments**

1. General obligation bond – final state approval today at the LGC. Steve Smith, Finance Director, attended the meeting today at 1:30pm.
2. Pinnacle Ridge Well site is ready for testing and state permitting.
3. Lake Coffey –
  - a. Final Geotech survey results are complete, indicate a substantial amount of rock.
  - b. FEMA funding - no progress.
4. Town Hall / Visitor Center –
  - a. Weather delays holding up the roofing.
  - b. Dispatch is moving back downstairs this week.
  - c. Building and Zoning will be next with the interior renovations.
5. Uptagrove settlement – re: tree and land clearing fines. Received \$11,000.00
6. Ski loft – Contractors staging site implemented (across the street) materials ordered and some received, work to commence April 1, 2024.
7. BRIC 2024 grant – ranked 9th in the state (out of 36). We will be responding to comments made by the review committee to improve our submission. This grant is for \$15 million.
8. Budget Retreat is January 25th at 8:30 am. Please plan the entire day. The Town will provide lunch.
9. Finance – Please turn to page 60, 61 and 62. All funds are well below budget expenditure benchmark of 41.67% through November 30th.
10. Severe weather – Public Works is working around the clock to keep the roads open and the drainage clear. Thank you to the whole department.

- 11. No water restrictions
- 10.2. Monthly Finance Office Report
- 10.3. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 10.4. Planning & Inspections Monthly Report 2023-12
- 10.5. Police Department Monthly Report
- 10.6. Recreation Report December 2023
- 10.7. TDA Report January 2024

## 11. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 11.1. Councilmember Alan Villanova asked if Town Manager Bob Pudney would look into the town ordinance regarding drought water restrictions. I would like the fees in the restrictions to be scaled so that those customers who are not using water will not be charged a higher rate to encourage the enforcement of those restrictions.

Councilmember Art Beckmann asked if the Town has a plan to address the traffic issue on Beech Mountain Parkway at the Beech Mountain Resort entrance? I would also like to see a way for the town or the TDA to better police the short term rentals. How can we better regulate who is renting and paying their required occupancy tax?

Councilmember M.W. Stanford Thanked the Town employees, we are in our third of four weeks of heavy visitation on the mountain. Everyone has stepped up and done a great job to make sure roads are maintained and folks are helped when broken down or needing assistance. Thank you all of our town staff for that. Secondly, How much of what we approved in the consent agenda as far as the budget amendments is grant funded? Town Manager Bob Pudney answered that 5 million dollars of grant funded dollars was incorporated in the packet that was approved tonight.

Vice Mayor Kelly Melang opened up with Happy New Year! The volume of visitors has been at an all time high and with the help of the town employees, Public Works, and Police Department it has went well. Congratulations to the those who we have appointed to the various boards and thank you for being willing our serve our town. The Budget retreat is this month and we start with a wish list, please contact us and let us know what your wish list is so we can begin making the decision that will be right for this town. One last question, Do we have an ordinance on heated driveways? Town Manager Bob Pudney answered that we do not however our driveway ordinance does address water moving from private property to public property regardless if it is from a heated driveway or not.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy thanked the Public Works department and Police Department for their hard work to keep our town running properly. Our employees do not criticize their jobs. This is a very busy time of year for Beech Mountain so hats off to those guys. Please attend the Budget Retreat and watch the process of how we potentially spend and invest the towns funds. I

have never been a big fan of the Sledding Hill because we have the resort who has invested millions of dollars but for the past two weekends I have went up to the hill and it is very poplar attraction. I hope that the businesses on Beech Mountain are reaping some rewards from the visitors of the Sledding Hill. I would also like to say thank you to our EMS, they are running call after call and they deserve a huge thank you! Last but not least we have an out-of-town guest who came all the way from Banner Elk, Mr. John Phillips thank you for attending our meeting today.

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

**12.1.** Mayor Abernethy requested a motion for adjournment at 4:57pm.

### **Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:57pm and Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

---

Town Clerk

---

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain