



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 9, 2021
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, November 9, 2021, 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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to adopt the agenda and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 5.1. Mr. Urs Gsteiger remembered Mr. Bob Carpenter who passed away in October and was a part-time and full-time resident of Beech Mountain.
- 5.2. Sustainability Program: A Cleaner Mountain Starts with You- Talia Freeman

Ms. Talia Freeman, Director of Marketing at the Beech Mountain Ski Resort, stated that she lives on the mountain and is proud to announce this new initiative at the Ski Resort. Ms. Freeman pointed out that consumer trends and resort customers care about the sustainability culture, to that end the Resort and Appalachian State are working together with graduate students to spearhead the program. Even small steps can help, and this year's platform is 'A cleaner mountain starts with you.

Mr. Freeman explained what the Ski Resort is implementing such as LED lighting, all spent brewery grain is donated to farms, vegetable oils to commercial businesses. bio-degradable cups are in use at the Resort, refillable water stations to help eliminate single use plastics, as well as good deeds rewards poker chips to patrons and staff. There is a native pollinator garden and the snow making system is a full overhaul to recycle their own reservoir water. The initiative has been posted and the town will partnership with the Resort for personal pledges promoting best practices.

- 5.3. Mr. Nick Wilson of 513 Charter Hills Road had questions about revenues at the Buckeye Recreation Center and the advisory committee to increase revenues. He questioned the design of the Convenience Center, the self-pay parking, why there were three workers at the dump, and the design of a shed door at the recycling center.

Ms. Elaine Lutzeier of 128 Overbrook Trail stated that she and her husband install the bear proof bins. If homeowner's order the bins from them by December 31st, the bear proof bins should meet the end of year deadline.

6. **FEATURED LOCAL BUSINESS- ELEVATE YOUR STYLE, 1103 BEECH MOUNTAIN PARKWAY, MARLEY OLSEN**

- 6.1. Mr. Pudney introduced Ms. Marley Olson, owner of the featured local business and Ms. Olson thanked the Town for recognizing the business which she opened 2 years ago. Stylists and the salon work year-round. The shop is situated next to Poppies Coffee and the website is www.stylebeechmountain.com

7. **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1. Adoption of Minutes
7.2. Budget Amendment #2022-02

Motion

Approve

- 7.3. 2022 Sewer Main Improvement Capital Project Ordinance

Vice Mayor Accardi requested the Town Manager discuss the 6-million-dollar sewer and water main improvement project and inform the public as to status of the streets.

Mr. Pudney expounded on the various portions of the infrastructure plan. There are basically two separate projects to replace water and sewer lines. As the crew tear up the roads, some may not need water line replacements, but is slated to replace sewer. Those lines have been assessed and the project follows the schedule. Geographically the next project is for 26,000 feet of pipe and line replacements. The SRF loan review is approved, and we have to meet the milestones as listed in the timeline for completion.

In response to Councilmember Abernethy's question, the itemized administration fee in the SRF Loan was explained by Mr. Pudney, and this admin fee charge is included in the loan. The interest rate is 1.3% and we are required to meet the milestones as per the contract specs and for the State SRF Loan. The next phase is an estimated 18 -24 months of construction for infrastructure repairs and replacement. The Town is assessing gravel and paved roads as per the timeline as per the project basis.

7.4. 2022 Water System Rehabilitation Capital Project Ordinance #2021-07

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to approve the consent agenda items as follows: Regular Town Council minutes October 12, 2021, Budget Amendment No. 2022-02 Operating Expenses, 2022 Sewer Main Improvement Capital Project Ordinance No. 2021-06 DWI # SRP-W-0185, 2022 Water System Rehabilitation Capital Project Ordinance No. 2021-07 and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Surplus Property Private Sale

Mr. Pudney explained the purpose of the Resolution would allow the private estate sale of special fly equipment. He recounted how the equipment was not used by the Recreation Department at Buckeye Lake and since the citizen wishes to purchase it back for the same price as paid, \$600.00, Staff recommends approval.

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to approve the Resolution No. 2021-11 to sell certain fly-tying feather fishing items at private sale for fair market value and Barry Kaufman seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

9.1. September Budget and Financial Report

Mr. Pudney reiterated the Parks and Recreation budget adjustment reflects the Ropes Course Project and the new Sled Hill parking lot. These were funded by the TDA department, with the ropes course funding ascertained by private donations. We run the projects through the Parks and Recreation budget even though it is sponsored by the TDA. The next finance report brings the Parks Department in line with the budget. Revenues and expenditures on page 32 of the Financial Report were explained by Mr. Pudney.

- 9.2.** Mr. Pudney provided Council with the Manager's Report and said the Covid-19 data shows that the pandemic is being managed better.

The Public Works Sanitation Department new procedures proved that the residential customers were offsetting the commercial waste and tonnage costs for commercial businesses and accounts. Since learning the estimates were wrongly assigned, the actual tonnage is now explained by the overall picture of where the garbage was coming from, and we will continue to monitor and watch this for the next 3-6 months. Hauling and dumping costs, tipping fees, fuel and machinery, personnel costs are fulling being calculated properly.

A reminder letter regarding receptacle garbage went out with the utility bill. We will work with the short-term rentals and to ensure trash bin compliance is in place by December 31st. We are seeing the twice-a-week curbside pickup increasing at the residences.

Mr. Pudney provided updates on NCDOT repairs and striping on the parkway. Reflectors to be installed by the end of the year. The Police Department have conducted speed traffic studies on Woodland Road as well as traffic and speeding patrols. There were 47 stationary patrols by radar, 10 warnings and two State citations issued. The Speed radar signs are moved every 10 days weather permitting.

The Public Works PSA campaign to reduce fats, oils, and grease in our wastewater system is underway and posted on the website and placed in the MountainEar. This is a requirement of the NCDEQ. The old recycling center will be cleaned, old dumpsters recycled, and the building removed. We remind the community and the commercial dumpster users, that we offer a recycling pass for \$60 per year at Town Hall. For residential customers this is included in the monthly sanitation fee.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the Lake Santis/Lake Coffey Water Resource Project. This is a viable project to build a dam and water reservoir. The State regulators and Agencies met on-site and stated the reservoir is off-creek. The good news is that the representatives of all the regulating agencies believe this is the right solution for the town. It will take a year to permit the project. We are working on the preliminary financing with the USDA agency, and local lending institutions. The project is estimated at 10-million-dollars. The breakdowns, rates and project specs will be projected into the finance model for analysis. Target date is set for 2025 and we will look towards funding with a FEMA grant which has a 70/30 split. Since Mr. Ryan Costin gave his permission, the Town is performing the due diligence and investigating the land and water. This is a

win-win for all as it satisfies the Resort's needs and the Town's needs. There is not a conflict.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the project statuses for:

- Sledding Hill
- Fencing
- Bathroom
- Parking Lot
- EMS Station and Contract
- salt shortage

Veterans Day is Thursday and Town Hall and Offices are closed. The Convenience Center will be open.

- 9.3. DOI Report November 2021
- 9.4. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 9.5. October 2021 Recreation Report
- 9.6. Police Department Monthly Report
- 9.7. TDA November 2021 Report
- 9.8. Planning and Inspections Monthly Report 2021-10

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. Vice Mayor Accardi announced the Famous Brick Oven Fundraiser 'Friendsgiving' takes place November 18th and proceeds benefit the Fire Department.

Councilmember comments included thanking the Parks and Recreation Department for the Haunted Halloween event and recreation programs, trash and garbage receptacles and curbside pickup, Police Department and Fire Department personnel assistance and the upcoming winter season, and visitors' and citizens' safety precautions.

11. CITIZENS' AGENDA COMMENTS

- 11.1. General conversation by various citizens ensued, concerns were regarding pavement painting and striping, the Recycle Center personnel, additional tipping fees, and educating citizens and visitors.

Mr. Pudney noted that at the August Town Hall meeting on the topic of trash, a citizen's task force group began holding meeting vetting our progress. Town Council is to receive recommendations regarding the Convenience Center access, public education on trash and recycling.

12. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Motion

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

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain