



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, January 10, 2023
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, January 10, 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
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

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

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

Motion

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

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. Mr. Nick Wilson of 513 Charter Hills Road inquired about the flag. He said he attends functions on Beech Mountain and that Council members should also attend functions. He added that council should meet with the departments and staff. Mr. Wilson asked for an update regarding budget funding and tax increases. He is in favor of reducing taxes. He suggested that utility billing could rebate \$50.00 on the water bills to give families a break.

Ms. Kari McMichael of 710 Pine Ridge Road commented on the volume of traffic on the parkway due to the ski resort. The parking situation impedes the emergency services and Police Department. The traffic is backed up to Tamarack Road, said Ms. McMichael. Emergency services cannot pass on the parkway, and she said the town should evaluate the resort parking issues to allow traffic to flow through the town. The traffic should be managed with the resort.

Ms. McMichael inquired about the budget retreat meetings, stating residents want information regarding the budget, and she thanked the council members for their hard work.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. Adoption of Minutes

6.2. Tax Refunds

Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adopt the consent agenda.

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to adopt the consent agenda items 6.1 and 6.2 and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

7.1. Board and Committee vacant term nominations

Mayor Kaufman requested nominations and to appoint members to the various vacancies on the Boards and Committees: Planning Board, Tourism Development Authority, Parks and Recreation Committee, Tree Board, and Board of Adjustment.

Planning Board

Councilmember Abernethy nominated Mr. Dean Roberts to the Planning Board to fill the current vacant term ending December of 2023. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. Mr. Dean Roberts was appointed to serve on the Planning Board until December of 2023. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Councilmember Abernethy nominated Ms. Lesley Sinkler Johnson to be re-appointed to the Planning Board to a new three-year term ending December of 2026. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. Ms. Lesley Sinkler Johnson was

appointed to serve on the Planning Board until December of 2026. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Mayor Kaufman requested nominations to the TDA (Tourism Development Authority).

Councilmember Melang nominated Ms. Kendal Cox to serve a three-year term on the TDA board ending December of 2026, and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. Ms. Kendall Cox was appointed to serve on the TDA until December of 2026. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Councilmember Melang nominated Ms. Jana Greer to serve a three-year term on the TDA ending December of 2026, and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. Ms. Jana Greer was appointed to serve on the TDA until December of 2026. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Councilmember Melang nominated Mr. Ben Swadley to serve on the TDA to a three-year term ending December of 2026, and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. Ms. Ben Swadley was appointed to serve on the TDA until December of 2026. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Mayor Kaufman requested Council appoint the Chair and Vice Chair of the TDA board and Councilmember Melang appointed Ms. Jana Greer to serve as Vice Chair and she appointed Ben Swadley to serve as the Chairman of the TDA board. Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Mayor Kaufman requested nominations to the Parks and Recreation Committee. Vice Mayor Accardi nominated Rory Ellington to the Recreation Committee to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Vice Mayor Accardi nominated Sheri Roberts to the Recreation Committee to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Vice Mayor Accardi nominated Michael Harmon to the Recreation Committee to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Tree Board

Mayor Kaufman re-appointed Tony Hunter to the Tree Board to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Mayor Kaufman re-appointed Lear Powell to the Tree Board to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

Board of Adjustment

Mayor Kaufman re-appointed Judy Elliott to the Board of Adjustment to serve a three-year term ending December 2026 and Mayor Kaufman called the vote. CARRIED. 4-0 unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. Planning and Inspection Fee Schedule Amendment

In response to Councilmember Abernethy's question regarding the Fee Schedule amendment request, Mr. Pudney said the reason for the adjustments to the fee schedule is because we are deleting the non-residential driveway permits and replacing that with the culvert permit. There are existing driveway alterations and new driveway permit requests, and we need to address those with culverts and with culvert repair and replacement permits.

Mr. Pudney clarified that previously we were using the driveway permit fee, it is more appropriate for it to be called the culvert permit. This will eliminate the commercial driveway current fee, as the inspection costs need to be in line with the actual costs, so that fee will increase as per the inspection and approval process for permitting.

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to amend and adopt the inspection fees for driveways and driveway culvert permits as presented on the Fee Schedule Amendment and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

9.1. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Pudney presented the manager's report and town project highlights:

- Lake Coffey Water Reservoir
- Water Wells sites and funding costs
- Skiloft Road Area Infrastructure Funding and Timeline
- Town Hall/ Visitor Center Expansion Project
- Wayfinding Signs
- Christmas Parade
- Visitor Center Staff Roles and Assignments
- Financial Report
- Solid Waste Report
- Parks and Recreation programs and revenues
- 2023 Town Council Election terms and fulfilling the vacancy term
- Town Council Fiscal Year Annual Budget Retreat January 25, 2023

Mr. Pudney reviewed the Lake Coffey/ Lake Santis project noting that the State DEQ review of the design criteria will be permittable, as well the plan has met the engineer's criteria for the model. There was a meeting with Mr. Ryan Costin, of the Ski Resort and the attorneys are working over the baseline water

supply, and the 99-year lease. That is moving forward for the engineers to work out with regards to water access.

The town staff are meeting with the consulting firm Haggerty Consultants regarding the 14-million-dollar grant from State and FEMA to submit infrastructure grants and he explained how the grant match would be a 90/10 match.

Mr. Pudney pointed out the financial report revenue line item at 38.66%, so revenues are exceeding expenditures. In response to Mayor Kaufman's question regarding recycled glass and materials, Mr. Pudney said there was a decrease in recyclables perhaps due to procedures changes to co-mingled materials.

He also pointed out the line item for the paid parking lot under the Parks and Recreation revenue as the Parks employees manage the parking lot with running the sled hill, one can find the line item in that category.

In response to Councilmember Abernethy's question regarding promotion of the town, Mr. Pudney said the area realtors receive an informational packet for new homeowners. The welcome packet features our Recreation department programs and events as well as the Beech Club and Resort amenities. Town Staff works on the welcome wagon information and promotional materials.

Mr. Pudney explained the process for the upcoming elections. We work with Avery and Watauga Board of Elections for the council elections. There will be the terms for the regular terms and a second contest vote to fill the remaining open and vacant term due to the resignation of the councilmember. As one registers their candidacy for the election, you would select which term you are running for, the Board of Elections will request the qualifications to run for the positions as per the State guidelines. Candidates must file with the county in which they reside.

The Budget retreat will be facilitated by Mr. Chris May, who has an extensive local and State government background. The January 25th work session will be open to the public and broadcast on the YouTube channel. Town Council member goals, priorities, and projects will be discussed.

- 9.2. Finance Report November 2022
- 9.3. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 9.4. Police Department Monthly Report
- 9.5. DOI Monthly Report
- 9.6. Recreation Report December 2022
- 9.7. Planning and Inspection Report 2022-12
- 9.8. TDA Report January 2023

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. In response to Councilmember Melang's questions, Mr. Pudney said the Beech Mountain Parkway flashboard sign will post when the Ski Resort is sold out. There is a sign at the sled hill stating that the sled hill is 'ride at your own risk'. The holiday hours and sanitation schedule hours are posted on-line and the changes for the holiday schedule is also posted at the Convenience Center on-site.

Councilmember Abernethy said he was in favor of the design standard resolution as building design should retain local control. He pointed out that there is a residential metal building. He did not think this home is aesthetically appealing for a residential structure and the Council should revisit this.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the revenue summary, the November report, and revenue growth last year versus this year. There was a discussion regarding Holiday Villas commercial bins and trash outside of them full, condos and fines when overflowing, code enforcement, and garbage and the ordinance enforcement. In response to Mayor Kaufman's observation that Republic Services did not come up the mountain due to the weather, Mr. Pudney said that the Public Works Department removed the trash, and it was emptied where there were problems.

There was discussion regarding the upcoming elections, the open vacant seat process, running for office, and the county board of election application procedure. Mayor Kaufman encouraged those to reapply as the town searches for fresh ideas and new opinions.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- 11.1. There being no further business, Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 4:55 p.m.

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