



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

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

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, October 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
Interim Town Clerk Emily Haynes

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

- 2.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to amend the agenda to remove item 7.2 Police Department budget Amendment Request and the addition of item 8.3 Voluntary Annexation Petition- buckeye Creek Rd.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to accept the amended agenda and Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 5.1. Fred Pfohl of 501 Beech Mountain Parkway spoke on the upcoming election and that he will be assisting in similar manner that Calder Smoot did for years. He reminded voters that the registration deadline is October 13th to turn in the voter registration forms at the courthouse to the Board of Elections. Watauga County residents will need to turn their forms into the Board of Elections in

Boone and Avery County residents to the courthouse in Newland. The election is November 7th, 2023 Watauga County residents can vote at the Buckeye Recreation Center, polls will be open 6:30am through 7:30pm. Please exercise your voting right. Reminder that it is now a requirement to have a photo ID with you at the polls. Also remember how important it is to vote yes for the Bond Referendum. Thank you all. Calder Smoot added that if you live in Avery County on Beech Mountain you must go to Banner Elk to vote.

Erica Corpening of 105 Cricket Way spoke on an ongoing issue with water diversion on their property they purchased in May 2023. She was informed of the issue from the the sellers of the property- The Sellars. We are looking for guidance on getting this issue resolved as we have money being held in escrow for this purpose but are unaware if the issue is our responsibility or the Town of Beech Mountain's. We are requesting documentation from the town of who is responsible for getting the water diversion solved and what needs to be done to do so. Thank you.

Urs Gsteiger of 124 Raven Road spoke on the GO Bond referendum and that he is in favor of this resource. I want to clarify some misinformation since the town has received some funds that this Go Bond isn't necessary anymore, that is not true. Our town still needs this GO Bond to pass on the November election. The town is regularly in lack of water especially as we approach drought season. The Bond Referendum authorizes the council the authority to use the funds if needed. I urge every voter to approve the Bond Referendum. Thank you.

Nick Wilson of 513 Charter Hills Road spoke about the sign that has been displayed as you enter the town first saying, "conserve water" and then "please conserve water" and homeowners are expected to do so. What is being done by the town, the resort, and the club to conserve water? I feel those are the three major water users. We have a current need to conserve water now. Thank you.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

6.1. Proclamation of Appreciation

Mayor Kaufman read the Proclamation of Appreciation to Calder Smoot and presented the proclamation and gifts to Mr. and Mrs. Smoot. Calder Smoot has spent countless hours over the years serving and volunteering in the town and for that, we thank you.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

7.1. Adoption of Minutes

Motion

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

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. Resolution to Approve a Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve the resolution for Municipal Accounting Services, Cybersecurity and Technical Assistance Memorandum of Agreement Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 8.2. TDA Board Appointment

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to appoint Leighann Cogdill as a TDA Board Member Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 8.3. Resolution directing the Town Clerk to investigate a voluntary annexation petition.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve the resolution directing the Town Clerk to investigate a voluntary annexation petition Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

- 9.1. Managers report and note updates.

Water restrictions – stage 1 effective yesterday 10/9/2023. Voluntary 5% reductions. Messaging has been sent out via website, email, info radio, traffic sign. Little rain in the 7-day forecast.

Lake Coffey update: 14 million state appropriation approved. Special thanks to Rep. Picket, Green and Sen. Hise. Thanks to the Mayor and Councilman Abernethy for traveling to Raleigh and communicating with the legislature. Our consultants, Hagerty Consultants were instrumental in obtaining this funding.

We are still in the running for the FEMA grant; however, all FEMA funding has been paused.

The general obligation bond referendum is on the November 1st ballot for the voters to decide. The town will need funding from multiple sources to complete the project in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Geotech drilling has been completed, the data is in the hands of the dam engineer, there will be a lull in work at the site until design, permitting and funding is secured.

Town hall / Visitor Center update – back on schedule, no outstanding issues.

Skiloft Road update – the contractor has been selected (M and M), we are

submitting the bid information to the state for approval, expect to issue a contract and notice to proceed in November. A neighborhood meeting is scheduled for October 26th at 5:00 in Town Hall to update the property owners on the project. The meeting will be live streamed and recorded. Notice has been sent to all property owners.

The swings have been installed at Bark Park. Funded 100% by the TDA. Please stop by and swing.

Pinnacle well is behind schedule, expect to have it complete and online in January.

Meet the Candidates hosted by the Chamber of Commerce is on October 26th at 5:00pm at Buckeye Recreation Center.

Farmers Market –last Friday with live music, these have been a great success, we plan to host next summer as well. Special thanks to sandy and Kevin Carr for running the events.

The Christmas parade is scheduled for December 21st at 4:00 snow or shine! Persons wishing to be in the parade should contact the Parks and Rec department. Santa’s workshop will be relocated to the Brick Oven Pizzeria due to the construction at Town Hall.

Fire Prevention Week October 8-14. Please visit the Beech Mountain Volunteer Fire Department website at [www. Beechmountainvfd.org](http://www.Beechmountainvfd.org) **“cooking safety starts with you!”** Cooking is the leading cause of home fire injuries.

- 9.2. Finance Department August Report
- 9.3. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 9.4. Planning & Inspections Monthly Report for 2023-09
- 9.5. Police Department Monthly Report
- 9.6. DOI Monthly Report October
- 9.7. September 2023 Recreation Report
- 9.8. TDA Report-October 2023

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. Councilmember Weidner Abernethy stated he just wanted to shed a little light on what Cyclone and Nick said earlier during public comment we have a strong presence of the Jewish community here on Beech Mountain and I'd just like to keep all of those that were affected by this atrocity in our prayers. In terms of water restrictions we may see some relief as the resort has closed and a lot of folks have left the mountain, I expect us to see some reduction in water usage. I didn't see much of a reaction to this 14 million dollars that the town has received this is a big deal for Beech Mountain, this council, the residents, the Town Manager and staff. Receiving that money is a huge accomplishment, the first time in history that Beech Mountain has ever received funding at this magnitude. We all need to pat ourselves on the back for this significant

milestone. Money of the magnitude had been available for years and for whatever reason it hasn't been capitalized on and moving forward with our next Town Council, next Town Manager we need to continue this progress. As Chief Pudney said we all went to Raleigh to continue to build this report. I had a function at our house a few months ago as a meet and greet with US congressman Virginia Fox and NC senators that aren't even apart of our territory. I feel proud to be able to show off Beech Mountain because we are the little forgotten about piece in Watauga County and in North Carolina but you look at the amenities we have to provide and in my opinion it exceeds most other communities in North Carolina. I encourage us to continue to build this report. Receiving 14 million this year doesn't mean we cant get another 14 million or more in the years to come. We need to continue the progress. Thank you.

Councilmember Kelly Melang stated I can't reiterate more the 18th of October Meet the Candidates event. I'm running for the two year seat so I will be there. Please bring all your questions and comments this is a great way to decide what you are going to do in November.

Mayor Barry Kaufman reminded everyone of the Meet the Candidates event on October 18th, 2023 at the Buckeye Recreation Center. We need to make sure we get the right candidates on board to continue moving our town forward. I think its important for the opportunity to ask questions and know who you will be electing for council. We don't want the town to go backwards we must continue to move forward.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion for adjournment at 4:39pm.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to adjourn Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain