



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, April 12, 2022
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 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

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

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. Ms. Therese Barry of 100 Squirrel Lane commented that local residents who are not handicap should not have to pay for parking at the new playground/ dog park. She understands that the existing parking spaces next to the parks are to be handicap parking. She said it is not fair to make permanent residents' pay to park.

Ms. Barry said due to the limited resources that there should be a building moratorium. She pointed out the water capacity problem so there should not be unlimited building due to the limited water supply.

5.2. Public Comments for Amendment to the 2022 Budget Ordinance

Mayor Kaufman stated that the proposed system development fee would increase to 100% of the fee calculator and asked if anyone wished to comment. After no one elected to speak, Mr. Kaufman stated Council would consider the request.

6. FEATURED LOCAL BUSINESS- SKI CELEBRATION, DAN GILBERT (ABSENT)

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1. Adoption of Minutes
- 7.2. Grassy Gap Trail Lease Agreement with Mayo One Holdings, LLC
- 7.3. Windsock Lease Agreement with Beech Creek Events LLC
- 7.4. Amendment to the FY 2022 Budget Ordinance
- 7.5. Resolution of Support for Powell Bill Changes

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for the following: Regular Meeting Minutes of March 8, 2022, the Grassy Gap Trail Lease Agreement with Mayo One Holdings, LLC, the Windsock Lease Agreement with Beech Creek Events, LLC, Amendment to the FY: 2022-23 Budget Ordinance, and the Resolution of Support for the Powell Bill Changes and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

8.1. NC DEQ Funding for Wastewater Assessment Project

Mr. Pudney noted that the request authorizes the Town Manager's Office to apply for funding from the State for different projects as noted in the resolutions. Specifically for water improvement, sewer improvement and the sewer assessment projects. These are non-matching grants. Council would be giving authorization to apply to the State for the grant money.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the NC DEQ Funding for Wastewater Assessment Project and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.2. Commercial Water/Sewer Rate Correction

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve the Commercial Water/Sewer Rate Correction in the fee schedule and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.3. NC DEQ Funding for 2022 Drinking Water Improvement Project

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the NC DEQ Funding for 2022 Drinking Water Improvement Project and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.4. NC DEQ Funding for 2022 Wastewater Improvement Project

Motion

Erin Gonyea made a motion to approve NC DEQ Funding for 2022 Wastewater Improvement Project and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.5. Res. in Support of the Burn a Blue Bulb Campaign

Mayor Kaufman read the resolution honoring our fallen officers, Deputy Sherriff Fox and Sargent Ward.

Motion

Erin Gonyea made a motion to approve the Resolution in Support of the Burn a Blue Bulb Campaign and Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

9.1. February Finance Reports

9.2. DOI Monthly Report for Town Council

Mr. Pudney pointed out the solid waste reduction in tonnage collected. It is two-hundred tons less than what it was a year ago and this amount looks to be consistent over the months. There was a discussion on recycling at the center addressing glass and aluminum. Mr. Pudney pointed out the new education flyers were distributed to the public in the utility bills. The employees are instructed to educate and assist with recycling.

9.3. Recreation Report March 2022

The Parks and Recreation report showed a significant revenue increase from last year in programs. The programs for physical training are producing \$11,000 plus the summer camp sessions were full as noted on page 66.

9.4. Mr. Pudney reported that the Town Planner, Preston Yates will conduct a study of Town resources to address our future growth. Ms. Barry shared her concerns about water capacity during Public Comments. The study will collect data and review trends for future town resources. The report will project our resource capacity for water, solid waste, sewage and sewage capacity, roadways, and public safety, etc.

The official start date for the Ems unit is May 14th. Avery County has not yet agreed to the joint contract with Watauga County. We will operate a “hybrid” system. Avery will continue to be dispatched to medical calls in Avery County along with the Fire Department units. We hope to get it resolved soon so a more efficient service may be offered.

The Planning Board is working on a recommendation for a town business license program. Mr. Pudney has also requested the Planning Director to review the zoning code to regulate “amusements” going forward.

Mr. Pudney said the Town of Boone's challenge to the State sales tax distribution was heard at the court of appeals on April 7th. A decision for the case should be made sometime in June, but that means that the current system of ad valorem tax distribution remains in place as it is currently being distributed by the County.

The Town has received approval by the Local Government Commission for the next two SRF funding loans for the Public Works water and sewer projects. The work has started on the old recycling center which will update the greenspace project. He added that the walkway light poles project is underway, and the prototypes are located at the new bathroom. Mr. Pudney said if they are acceptable by Council, that we would like to propose that the TDA fund all eighteen units.

The new facility and ribbon cutting for the bathroom/parking lot/sledding hill is scheduled for May 5 at 4:00 pm. Parks and Recreation Department will send out invitations. Also, on the Parks and Recreation Committee agenda is to schedule a Farmers Market on August 6th at the new parking lot location. Thanks to Fred Pfohl, for spearheading and to the Parks and Recreation Committee.

If Town Council wishes to consider waiving parking lot fees for town events, then Staff will put forth this item for discussion. The Water tank color charts were presented to Council and there was a discussion. Mr. Pudney will provide sample swatches on the tanks for Council to view and critique for an overall consensus.

As passed by Council the Resolution and blue light memorial for Chris Ward and Logan Fox will take place on April 28th as that is the anniversary of the tragedy that affected our community. We ask that you display the blue light for the month of April in honor of our fallen officers.

9.5. Fire Department Monthly Report

- 9.6. Police Department Monthly Report
- 9.7. Planning and Inspection Report 2022-03
- 9.8. TDA April Report

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. In response to Councilmember Abernethy's question regarding the town's water plant capacity, Mr. Pudney said it processes one-million gallons of water a day. He referenced the monthly water report on page 54 as to our usage in March, which averaged 500,000-gallons per day. So, we are at half capacity and the maximum usage was approximately 600,000-gallons. He discussed the projected build-out, and the raw gallons of water, the capacity in 2010, the water wells capacity, water conservation measures, raw water in the lakes, and the loss of water, and draught years.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the Lake Coffey/Lake Santis permitting and engineering process. the water reservoir at Lake Coffey and Santis is a private public partnership and so the State is working through this complicated review process as there are questions and scenario outcomes to be vetted.

In response to Councilmember Melang's question regarding the zoning for amusements, Mr. Pudney stated we do not currently have that zoning regulated. The Planning Board is vetting the issue as to regulations and allowances.

Public Works Administrator, Chrissy Bonestell has the information on the Recycle Committee for those that wish to participate. Ms. Bonestell is the organizer.

Councilmember Gonyea noted that property owners would be in shock with the new tax evaluation. Public concerns about tax notices and the tax rate should contact the county tax administrator.

Councilmember Abernethy recognized Sargent Ward and Deputy Fox and all our law enforcement and thanked all our law enforcement organizations.

Mayor Kaufman noted the property tax re-evaluations were conducted by the counties. The next draft budget work session for Town Council is scheduled for April 20th at 10:00. Mr. Pudney said the Council members will receive copies of the draft budget by Thursday April 14th.

11. CITIZENS' AGENDA COMMENTS

- 11.1. Ms. Therese Barry did not agree with choosing a dark blue color for the tanks. She said that Republic uses the stark blue color on their dumpsters. One just needs to look at the Republic canisters on the mountain to see that they are very bright, and not appealing.

12. ADJOURNMENT

12.1. There being no further business, Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 4:45 p.m.

Motion

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

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain