



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, December 12, 2023
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

COUNCIL PRESENT: Barry Kaufman
Jimmie Accardi
Councilmember Weidner Abernethy
Councilmember 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

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 Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. Nick Wilson of 573 Charter Hills road expressed his concern about the deer population and large herds. He stated Watauga County has asked for a study to be done and he would like to suggest that the town also do a study on our

deer population. Mr. Wilson then asked two things from the new council. one being that they meet privately outside of the monthly council meeting with residents and secondly examine our finances for a reduction in the millage rate. Mr. Wilson thanked those on council whose term has ended, thanked each individual department in the town for the work that is done to better our town.

6. PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION

- 6.1. Proclamation of Appreciation was read and presented to Representative Ray Pickett by Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1. Adoption of Minutes

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the consent agenda Jimmie Accardi seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. DEPARTURE OF CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS AND COUNCIL

- 8.1. Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi presented Mayor Barry Kaufman with a personalized gavel to express his appreciation and thanked the Mayor for his service to the town.

9. OATH OF OFFICE: ELECTED OFFICIALS CEREMONY

- 9.1. Oath of Office Ceremony

10. TOWN CLERK CONDUCTS SELECTION OF MAYOR

- 10.1. Interim Town Clerk Emily Haynes requested a motion for a nomination of Mayor of Beech Mountain.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to nominate Weidner Abernethy as Mayor of Town of Beech Mountain Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

11. TOWN MAYOR CONDUCTS SELECTION OF VICE MAYOR

- 11.1. Mayor Weidner Abernethy requested a motion for selection of Vice Mayor.

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion to select Kelly Melang as Vice Mayor for the Town of Beech Mountain M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

12. CONSENT AGENDA- PART II

12.1. 2024 Town Council & Boards' Meeting Schedule Calendar

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the consent agenda part II Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

13. OLD BUSINESS

13.1. Sale of Town Owned Real Property

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve the sale of town owned property Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

13.2. Public Hearing on the Question of Annexation of Buckeye Nest NC Property

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the question of annexation of Buckeye Nest NC property Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the question of annexation of Buckeye Nest NC property Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

13.3. Public Hearing on the Question of Annexation of Town-Owned Property

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the question of annexation of Town-Owned property M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the question of annexation of Town-Owned property M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

13.4. Public Hearing on the Proposed Rezoning of Buckeye Nest NC Property

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the proposed rezoning of Buckeye Nest NC property Alan Villanova seconded the motion.

CARRIED. unanimously.

Motion

Art Beckmann made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the proposed rezoning of Buckeye Nest NC property Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

13.5. Resolution 2023- 24

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-24 Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

14. NEW BUSINESS

14.1. Resolution Authorizing Individuals for Deposit Accounts and bank signatories

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

14.2. 2023 Audit Results and Financial Statement Presentation

Cindy Randolph presented the audit results to the Town Council. Town Manager Bob Pudney thanked the Town Hall staff Steve Smith- Finance Director, Kelsey Wise- Finance Assistant, and Rebecca Ward- Tax Collector for their continuous work.

14.3. Annexation Ordinance for Buckeye Nest NC Property

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the annexation ordinance for Buckeye Nest NC property Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

14.4. Board and Committee appointments

14.5. Planning Board Appointment

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to table item 14.5 until January 2024 Council Meeting Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

14.6. Rezoning Ordinance for Buckeye Nest NC Property

Motion

Art Beckmann made a motion to approve the rezoning ordinance for Buckeye Nest NC property Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED.

unanimously.

14.7. Annexation Ordinance for Town-Owned Property

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve annexation ordinance for Town-Owned property Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

15. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

15.1. Department of Infrastructure Report Dec. 2023

15.2. Town Manager's Comments:

Welcome new Councilmembers and Mayor. The staff and I look forward to working with you for the betterment of the town.

Water restrictions have been lifted based upon seven consecutive days above the minimum release for Lake Buckeye. We will continue to monitor the water supply and will adjust as necessary. Without a long-term change in the weather pattern, we can expect to have restrictions in the future.

Pinnacle Well is ready to go after state testing and permitting. We expect to be able to operate the well after the first of January. (100,000 gallons per day.)

General Obligation Bond for the Lake Coffey project passed overwhelming on November 7th. We will proceed with certification of the election.

Lake Coffey – progressing with design and engineering, we can recover some of the previous costs associated with the project to date.

Town Hall / Visitor Center update – well behind on the schedule due to weather and roofing issues. We expect to make up for some of the lost time after the roofing materials are installed. Dispatch is scheduled to be moved back in by the end of December.

Contracts have been signed for the Skiloft Road project and the 2023 water and sewer project. The ski loft project will begin April 1, 2024.

Financial reports – page 202- all expenditures are below the benchmark for the period.

Solid waste – page 210 – we are on track to meet last year’s tonnage; we have reached a manageable annual plateau of 895 tons.

We have submitted a second BRIC (building resilient infrastructure and communities) grant application for 15 million dollars for future water and sewer projects, thank you to Daniel Davis, Steve Smith and Kate Gavenus.

We have secured the facilitator, Chris May, for the January 25th budget retreat, please block out the full day for this meeting.

Christmas parade December 21st snow or shine. Santa’s workshop has been moved to the side of the Brick Oven due to the construction at Town Hall. Call Parks and Recreation with any questions.

- 15.3. Finance Officer's Report for October 2023
- 15.4. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 15.5. Public Works Report
- 15.6. Police Department Monthly Report
- 15.7. November 2023 Recreation Report
- 15.8. Planning & Inspections Monthly Report 2023-11
- 15.9. TDA Report December 2023

16. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 16.1. Councilmember Alan Villanova- I want to thank everyone, my wife and the voters for supporting me. I want to do what is in the best interest for the town and the people.

Councilmember Art Beckmann- Thank you to all who voted for me. I'm looking forward to working with Town Manager Bob Pudney and his staff. In our orientation Daniel Davis spoke on a few projects and he is very informative on each project. To the outgoing Mayor and Vice Mayor, thank you for all you have done for this town.

Councilmember Michael Stanford- Thank you to each person who voted for me. Thank you to my wife, Erin for our move to Beech Mountain and for your continuous support. I plan to reach out to town staff and be involved. My goal is to make sure residents know what we are doing and be transparent with all residents.

Vice Mayor Kelly Melang- Thank you Barry, Jimmie, and Erin who is not here tonight. It was a pleasure working with each of you. To the new council we will

all work together to better Beech Mountain.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy- Chief Pudney this council is behind you 100 percent. I would like to also take a minute to recognize a few staff members who make these meetings possible. Our Interim Town Clerk, Emily Haynes and our Assistant Fire Chief Riley Hatch thank you both for all you do.

**17. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(3)
ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS**

- 17.1. Uptagrove VS. Town of Beech Mountain
Rocky Top Properties VS. Town of Beech Mountain

18. ADJOURNMENT

- 18.1. Mayor Weidner Abernethy requested a motion to adjourn

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:52pm Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain