



# MINUTES

## Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, August 13, 2024  
Council Chambers

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The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 4:00 PM, in the Council Chambers, with the following members present:

**COUNCIL PRESENT:** Mayor Weidner Abernethy  
Vice Mayor Kelly Melang  
Councilmember Alan Villanova  
Councilmember Art Beckmann  
Councilmember M.W. Stanford

**COUNCIL EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Attorney Stacy Eggers, IV  
Town Manager Bob Pudney  
Town Clerk Emily Haynes

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

1.1. Mayor Abernethy called the August 13th Council Meeting to order at 4:00PM.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

#### **Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion and Art Beckmann seconded the motion.  
CARRIED. unanimously.

### 3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

### 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 5. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

5.1. Town of Beech Mountain Police Officer- Eli Wright  
Town Manager Bob Pudney introduced our newly sworn-in officer, Officer Wright, and welcomed him to the Town of Beech Mountain. Officer Wright thanked the community for the opportunity to protect and serve the citizens of

Beech Mountain and stated that he was blessed to be part of the department.

**5.2. North Carolina Certified Economic Developer- Kate Gavenus**

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 6.1.** Tahja Harrison- 1. Town information is being sent in water bills and some residents like myself have automatic drafts and do not open the water bill each month. A letter informing residents to look at the water bill would be beneficial. 2. Paid parking lot- Could we develop a system that residents use the convenience center hang tags as a parking pass as well to avoid the parking fee? 3. Growth- Do we have a maximum number of new construction permits to be approved in a year? I moved here for the safe, small-town community, and natural wildlife environment. The growth will make Beech Mountain lose all of those things and it cannot be reversed. 4. Convenience Center- The town could design a trash shoot that would allow residents to drop trash in a closed wildlife-resistant container which would not require a town employee to be on-site for operation.

**7. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 7.1.** Adoption of Minutes  
**7.2.** Proposed amendment to the FY2025 Fee Schedule  
**7.3.** Tax Refund

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve the consent agenda Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- 8.1.** Resolution 2024-13

**Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve and accept the dedication to the public rights of way and easements on subdivision plats in Crest of Beech Subdivision Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 8.2.** Proclamation- Constitution Week

**Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion approve September 17th through 23rd as Constitution Week M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

- 9.1.** Town Manager report-  
1. Financial Reports:

Pg 44 – Revenue & expense Report – end of budget year.  
General Fund – revenue down at 90.10% of projected.  
Expenditures held at 87.16%  
transferred \$362,939.00 to the fund  
balance.

Pg 45 -Utility Fund – revenue above projected at 105.64%  
Expenditures held to 96.40%  
transferred \$361,693.00 to the fund  
balance.

Pg 46 – Sanitation Fund – revenue down at 85.97%.  
Expenditures held at 94.38%  
8.41% in the red.  
Rate increase as well as reduced operational costs to balance in current  
budget. (\$79,597.00) from fund balance.

Pg 47 recaps all three funds.

2. Watermain breaks – earthquake in eastern Tennessee, one day later the town experienced 4 watermain breaks. The town has two tanks empty for repairs that negatively affected the return to normal.
3. Projects:
  - a. Skiloft Road – on schedule, contractor accomplished the first milestone by 15 days. All water and sewer have been installed, Mountain electric is almost complete with new electrical and transformers. Concrete curbs and gutters are being installed this week with road gravel to follow.
  - a. Utility project – Greenbrier Road is making good progress; Meadowview circle is complete. We held a Skiway Neighborhood Meeting July 31st to answer questions from the property owners, the meeting was well attended.
  - i. Lake Coffey – working to keep the resort informed as to the progress, the engineer met with Mr. Costin, and we have forwarded site information for his use.

The Geotech engineer is determining the best design for the reservoir liner, due to the quality of the subsurface materials we will need to line the reservoir.

The wetland and stream delineations have been completed. A site consultation with the US Army Corps of engineers and the NC Division of Water Resources was held on site August 8th- with positive results.

Interaction and information submittals with the NC Department of Public Safety are underway, as needed for securing the next level of FEMA funding.

- i. Town Hall / Visitor center – moving quickly now, hope to have it substantially complete by the first of October. Pardon our dust

and sorry for the inconvenience with the parking lot.

- a. Beech Mountain Parkway Roadsides – new soil and proper seeding and hay, look for a marked improvement soon.
  - a. Shane Park – campers – rules board being changed to reflect the allowance of class b campers, parking lot stripping will be completed after the outdoor crew finishes the boat dock. (had 61 campers in July).
  - a. Police Department passed the state communications inspection today, even with all the construction. Thank you to Chief Barnett and Telecommunicator Director Dave Davis.
4. The fourth farmers market is scheduled for September 6, 2024. The theme is “bee happy” with a honeybee education station and products.

**9.2.** Monthly Finance Report

**9.3.** Fire Department Monthly Report

**9.4.** Police Department Monthly Report

**9.5.** DOI Report July 2024

**9.6.** Planning and Inspection Monthly Report 2024-07

**9.7.** TDA Report August 2024

**9.8.** July 2024 Recreation report

## **10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- 10.1.** Councilmember Alan Villanova- Thank you, Bob, and your staff for maintaining the budget. The work around the town roadways and parks doesn't go unnoticed, the town looks great!

Councilmember Art Beckmann- I attended the Farmers Market in August and saw a cornhole competition between the Police and Fire Departments. I would like the town council to challenge the fire department winners of that competition at the next Farmers Market on September 6th at 4 PM.

Councilmember M.W. Stanford- Congratulations on a successful budget. I will be out of town and not be in attendance to September's meeting.

Vice Mayor Kelly Melang- During the budget process a statement was made to trust department heads to make the right decisions- each department head did exactly that. Kite festival is quickly approaching and still in need of volunteers. The museum now has the mountain medicine exhibit open and calendars available to purchase.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy- I encourage residents to contact Town Hall and request their trash passes be held for pick up in the future years. The mail system isn't reliable and passes can be lost in the mail. Beech Mountain

Parkway is being paved from Eagles Nest to the Beech Mountain City limits. I would like the Council to look at paving the remaining portion of the parkway. The TDA could be involved in this project, it is going to promote tourism for the visitors in Eagles Nest to come into Beech Mountain and visit our restaurants, ski resort, and many other amenities on the mountain.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy read the End Overdose in Watauga Proclamation.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

**11.1.** Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to adjourn at 4:57 PM.

### **Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to adjourn at 4:57 PM Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

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Town Clerk

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Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain