



# MINUTES

## Regular Town Council Meeting

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

---

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, February 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 M.W. Stanford  
Councilmember Art Beckmann  
Councilmember Alan Villanova

**COUNCIL EXCUSED:**

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

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

#### Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to adopt the agenda Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

### 3. INVOCATION-DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

### 4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 5. SPECIAL GUEST DR. LESLIE ALEXANDER, WATAUGA SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

5.1. Mayor Abernethy introduced Dr. Leslie Alexander to the February 13th Town Council meeting. Dr. Leslie spoke on behalf of Watauga County School system and the importance of having support for the myFutureNC Attainment Goal.

## **6. TOWN EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- 6.1. Mayor and Council thanked the town employees for their tireless efforts during this winter season. Public Works, Recreation, Police, EMS, and Fire department each had employees in attendance that were individually recognized for their service to the town.

## **7. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 7.1. Dean Phillips of Appalachian Waste introduced himself and his company to the council and offered their services if the town is ever in need of additional waste management.

## **8. CONSENT AGENDA**

- 8.1. Adoption of Minutes
- 8.2. Resolution Designation of Applicant's Agent
- 8.3. 2024 Budget Ordinance Amendment #4

### **Motion**

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

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

- 9.1. Resolution 2024-08

### **Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to adopt the resolution to support the myFutureNC Attainment Goal Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 9.2. Appoint Chair Person and Vice Chair to the TDA

### **Motion**

Alan Villanova made a motion to appoint Jana Greer as Chairperson for the TDA Board Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

### **Motion**

Alan Villanova made a motion to appoint Dawn Dagleish as Vice Chairperson for the TDA Board Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 9.3. American Rescue Plan Act Funding (ARPA) - Required Policies

### **Motion**

Art Beckmann made a motion to adopt the following policies; Allowable Costs

and Cost Principles Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, Eligible Use Policy, Internal Controls for ARPA Funding Policy, Nondiscrimination Policy, Property Management Policy, Record Retention Policy Alan Villanova seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**9.4. Call for Public Hearing on Rezoning of Recently Annexed Town Property**

**Motion**

M.W. Stanford made a motion to set a public hearing date for the next available Council meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at 4:00 PM to gather public input on the proposed rezoning Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

**10. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

**10.1. Town Manager Comments**

1. Holiday weekend / winter weather update-
  - a. MLK 1-15 was a disaster.
    - i. Heavy visitor traffic, resort overflowing.
    - ii. Snowstorm in the afternoon.
    - iii. Beech Mountain Parkway blocked in all directions to Tynecastle.
    - iv. Had a patient in our ambulance for 4 hours.
    - v. Opened buckeye as a shelter – housed 40 persons and 1 dog. The resort sheltered over 20 people in the lodge for the night.
    - vi. Unable to move snowplows and salt trucks due to traffic jam.
    - vii. Police, Fire and Public Works worked through the night to clear the roadways. Vehicles had to be towed as they were abandoned in the roadways.
  - b. After action meeting 1-16. Resort and dot invited to attend.
    - i. Policy changes-
      1. Monitor Beech Mountain Parkway for traffic real time to intervene before roads become impassable.
      2. Police control vehicles leaving the resort in small numbers than can be safely handled.
      3. Limit to four-wheel drive or chains.
      4. Relocate fire apparatus from fire station #1 to station #2.
      5. barricaded Pinnacle Ridge Road due to weather.
      6. Traffic sign at Beech Mountain Parkway and Pine Ridge to direct traffic to us 321.
      7. Traffic sign at Pine Ridge Road and Buckeye Creek Road directing to us 321.
      8. Installed camera at resort entrance for dispatch to monitor.
      9. Additional DOT resources to be staged on beech mountain, salt sharing.
      10. Maintain route from Tynecastle to us 321 for traffic

to exit the mountain. (limits remaining roads)

11. Additional tow trucks to be contracted for quick removal of vehicles blocking the roadways.
  12. maintain traffic flow off the mountain in two directions based upon road conditions.
  13. bring in additional support personnel to town hall and dispatch.
- ii. The plan was fully implemented and tested on 1-26 with good results.
  - iii. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the plan for changes.
- c. 2-3-24 traffic exceeded MLK. Parking on Elderberry Ridge Road exceeds our capacity to enforce. Signs have been added and additional tow trucks contracted for each weekend. There is a **zero-tolerance** illegal parking policy.
2. Project updates-
    - a. Skiloft is progressing, materials are staged, and work is planned to begin 4/1/24 at 0800 hrs.
    - b. '23 utility project will begin this spring, construction scheduling will be determined and published on website. The project encompasses several neighborhoods.
    - c. Lake Coffey – Geotech work completed, finalizing the design and cost estimates. Lots of rock.
    - d. Pinnacle well – complete, power is on and testing underway, waiting for state permit. Expect to be online soon.
    - e. Town Hall – getting back on track, contractor has made some supervision changes and added additional staff, roof is progressing.
    - f. BRIC Grant #2– updated with additional information to improve our standing. (thank you Daniel and Steve).
  3. The parks and recreation board would like to invite the town council and TDA to tour the many recreation offerings in the town. Sean will be happy to set up a joint tour by bus if you would like.
  4. Staff are working on the '24-'25 budget per council directions from the retreat. Our next meeting is scheduled for March 28th at 2:00 pm to go over the financial model.
  5. Page 112 – 115 financial reports – we are at 50% of the budget and are on track.

**10.2.** Finance Officer's Monthly Report

**10.3.** Police Department Monthly Report

**10.4.** Fire Department Monthly Report

**10.5.** January 2024 Recreation Report

**10.6.** Department of Infrastructure Monthly Report

**10.7.** TDA Report February 2024

## 11. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 11.1. Councilmember Alan Villanova- Thank you to all town employees for the hard work and long hours that have been put into our town during the snowstorms.

Councilmember Art Beckmann- Thank you to our Town Manager Bob Pudney and staff for putting together a plan to better deal with the busy ski weekend traffic. I'm also glad to see the attendance at today's council meeting.

Councilmember Michael Stanford- Thank you to the Town Manager Bob Pudney and staff. Another issue we are facing when we see the high volume of visitors is the garbage that is being left all over the mountain.

Vice Mayor Kelly Melang- Does the town have a way to determine which/if gravel roads have been salted? Mr. Pudney answered that we do not salt the gravel roads we only use sand or chat. The gravel roads are hard to maintain in the winter months with freezing and rain. Vice Mayor Melang congratulated the TDA Chair and Vice Chair appointments. Vice Mayor also stated she liked the changes that have been made to the agenda with inserting the explanation under the headings.

Mayor Weidner Abernethy- I recently visited another ski resort and the traffic was horrendous. Beech Mountain looks good in comparison to similar towns. Thank you to our Town Manager Bob Pudney for the efforts being put in place to help reduce the traffic throughout the town. Mayor Abernethy stated he would like to pursue RV parking spaces at Shane Park. The council has strong leadership and the town's best interest at heart we are excited to continue the progress in the town. Lastly thank you once again to the town employees.

- 11.2. Mayor Weidner Abernethy presented a generous donation from the Abernethy Family to the Volunteer Fire Department accepted by the Town Manager/ Fire Chief, Bob Pudney.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

- 12.1. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion for adjournment at 5:28pm.

---

Town Clerk

---

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain