



# MINUTES

## Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, October 13, 2020  
Council Chambers

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The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, October 13, 2020, 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  
Public Utilities Superintendent Daniel Davis  
Director of Special Projects Riley Hatch  
Parks and Rec Director Sean Royall  
Finance Officer Steve Smith

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adopt the regular meeting agenda.

#### **Motion**

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

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

### 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

4.1. Public Comments received:

1.) My name is Brenda Rhea, and I live at 127 Raven Road year-round. Would you consider some type of notification to homeowners, full and part time, to

prohibit their dogs from barking constantly. My neighbor across the street leaves her small dog outside most of the day, and apparently he/she has "separation anxiety" and barks constantly. It disturbs everyone on the street and destroys the solitude of our area.

I don't want to be that "little ol' lady" on the street who complains, but the dog is left outside, unattended which is dangerous for the dog, and the nonstop barking is extremely annoying to those of us who live here for the beauty and tranquility of our beautiful mountains.

I can be reached at [bfitzgeraldrhea@gmail.com](mailto:bfitzgeraldrhea@gmail.com) or 512-585-5822.

Thank you. I hope you can do something about this.

Brenda Rhea

**2.) 15 MPH SPEED LIMIT** Barbara O'Connell <barb4707@aol.com>

We would appreciate you addressing the 15 MPH speed limit request on Hornbeam road per our petition from our residents. Thank you, Barbara O'Connell

**3.) Subject: SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES**, except it's not YOUR eyes. It's mine and others.

To: The Beech Mountain Town Council

To be read and considered at Town Council Meeting: October 13, 2020.

After over a year and 2 months of seeking your help and action, being demoralized, shocked, upset, stressed, angry, not feeling well, not being able to enjoy the fresh mountain air, property damage and so on and on and on, all of which is a serious understatement beyond all normal comprehension. Spending almost all of my time these past two years researching, appealing to you all for help has drained me and is far from fair.

Wondering, if I built a fire pit according to the present code on my property, had huge amounts of wood delivered by truck and then burned whenever I felt like it, thereby smoking out the neighbors, would that be okay? Of course, I would never do this. Just wondering if it would be allowed for myself or any other residents if we so desired. Perhaps, next door to you all. Imagine that scenario. I bet the Ordinance would be upgraded to prevent this abuse in a "New York Minute".

As per Bob Pudney's response regarding neighboring municipalities:

When I talked with some other nearby Managers, some of them told me they did not have strict or any fire pit rules other than construction information if that. However, I was told by all of them that if this problem existed in their town, it would be shut down immediately.

Not one of them could believe this hadn't been done right away. If for any reason, you believe I am making this up, I guarantee you, I am not.

Just because Mr. Johnson at 150 Hornbeam was recently fined due to an unattended fire does not in any way mean the problem has been solved. We have all, including our pets, been breathing in smoke filled air for far too long. We have sent you numerous amounts of documentation of the dangers of smoke inhalation. This is an extremely serious threat to our health and well being especially during this pandemic that we are all experiencing.

In addition, Smoke Travels wherever the wind carries it, all over the place and lasts for hours and hours, long after the fire may or may not have been extinguished.

After so much exposure, it becomes absorbed by materials in on and around our homes and does not dissipate. I now have to pressure clean my home again after it had been done in June 2019, and now the front of my home is black. I also have to have the ductwork cleaned again because the smoke smell is lodged in the ductwork. My home always had a feint delicious cedar smell which I absolutely loved. That is gone and is so sad and so very, very upsetting.

Again I ask: How is it allowable that this person can bring in huge amounts of wood by truck and pile it up all over the rental property in gigantic mounds, blocking out what is going on behind these obstructions, for no other purpose than to spite the neighbors and smoke them out. I understand that regular fireplace wood/logs are, of course, allowed. However, wood delivered by truck in huge amounts, such as exists at 150 Hornbeam, I have heard is not allowed as it is an eyesore, a fire hazard and an attraction for all kinds of vermin. Yet, no action has been taken to clear the property of this hazard. Where and what is the responsibility of the owners of the property? The owners have two members of their family that are volunteer fire fighters on beech mt., and they allow this situation to persist. Shameful.

As more and more homeowners on Beech Mt. Are hearing and finding out about this abhorrent situation, they are horrified at the inaction of the Town Council. These folks are not affected at all by any smoke, but they worry it could possibly happen to them. The word is spreading and faith in Beech Mt. To protect innocent, law abiding, tax paying citizens from the threat and reality of toxic air quality that can be easily prevented, is spreading "like wildfire".

The reasoning that an updated and protective ordinance would affect everyone is no excuse. It IS the reason to update the ordinance. It is a good idea, as it would protect everyone from the abusive use of fire pits, smoke damage, compromised health, stress, anger and lack of faith in those that are supposed to protect us. It would be a positive thing to do for the citizens of beech mt.

At the very least, reinstate the Nuisance Ordinance. It is beyond any and all comprehension that it was removed. Make a new Ordinance to protect all of us from the abusive use of fire pits and enforce it. There is a Noise Ordinance, a Light Ordinance and so on. There needs to be ASAP, a fire pit ordinance that is as up to date as possible with current air quality standards and that other NC towns and municipalities already have in their Codes. Smoke inhalation is very dangerous, and when it can be controlled and

eliminated it becomes an emergency to enact protections for your citizens. No one and I mean, no one can understand the refusal of the Council to do nothing at all to solve this horrendous and dangerous situation.

You all have the ability to make things right.  
Barbara Sugerman

**4.)** Sent: Tuesday, September 29, 2020 5:05:20 PM  
To: Barry Kaufman <[bkaufman@townofbeechmountain.com](mailto:bkaufman@townofbeechmountain.com)>  
Subject: Fire pit burning

I am Dr. Robert Bader, an owner of 106 Oak Rd. Due to recent events on the mountain, I recommend that we clarify what "normal use" of fire pit burning is. Some language examples are below:

- a. Fire pit use is limited to recreational enjoyment (for the purpose of social activity and/or sitting to enjoy the fire) or for the purpose of cooking food. This does NOT include the purpose of burning to discard unwanted wood or other materials).
- b. The activity must be supervised with an adult present outdoors and within 25 feet of the firepit if any flames are present (embers are not considered flames)
- c. Fire pit use is limited to 12pm until 11pm M-R and until midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Robert S. Bader, M.D. RSB Dermatology Inc

**5.)** Sent: Monday, October 12, 2020 9:02 AM  
Subject: Re: Fire pit burning

Please read at the upcoming meeting

The reported incidents occurring at 150 Hornbeam are concerning. As Bob Pudney was kind of enough to clarify (and I quote him):  
"The current Town Ordinance as well as the North Carolina State Statute limits fire pits as you have suggested, in fact the requirements are clear that it is for recreational use or the cooking of food. Supervision is required by constant attendance as well as an approved means for control and extinguish."

In my opinion the term "recreational use" is vague as one can have a bonfire, which may be recreational, or just a small campfire to heat up a pot of coffee. Consider further clarification of this term. In any case, the "recreational use" of a fire-pit should not be such that it negatively affects the air quality, results in excessive smoke that is bothersome to neighbors, or results in airborne embers that pose a fire hazard to trees, homes or other flammable matter. Recreational use should be for the sole purpose of social enjoyment or for the cooking of food, not for the purpose to dispose of waste or wood.

I thank you for taking the initiative to fine the individuals involved at this residence and I hope that you will continue to monitor the situation or amend the current Town ordinances to preserve the well being of our residents.

Many Thanks!

Dr. Robert Bader 106 Oak Road Beech Mountain, NC

6.) Logan Miller <loganmwts@gmail.com>

Despite the endless attempts your citizens have made to try get you to create a Fire Pit Ordinance, you still refuse to create the ordinance which is very crucial to our mountain at this time. There are some very effective and fair solutions to the ongoing, open burn fire pit issue taking place at 150 Hornbeam, but you all still don't think any of the solutions are necessary to address this terrible issue. Ultimately, it will not fix anything to only fine the tenant and assume the issue will magically disappear. Doing this won't effectively eradicate the issue or even put a pause to it, which is endangering to the health of our citizens and environment. This could have been prevented if you would have just kept nuisance clause #7 installed.

There are other great solutions out there, but we don't understand your reasoning for uninstalling this one. "No noxious or offensive activity shall be carried on upon any lot, nor shall anything be done thereon tending to cause embarrassment, discomfort, annoyance or nuisance to the neighborhood. There shall not be maintained any plants, poultry, animals (other than household pets) or devise or thing of any sort whose normal activation or existence is in any way noxious, dangerous, unsightly, unpleasant or of a nature as may diminish or destroy the enjoyment of other property in the neighborhood by the owners thereof."

I can't believe that this uncivil, spiteful behavior is being accepted on Beech Mountain. The truth is people like you, in power, truly do not have any regard for your citizens and solely take pride in the positions you hold—which could be used for crucial changes to our mountain, immediately.

By your inaction, you're also showing that you don't care about people who may have a pre-existing condition, such as asthma, pneumonia, chronic bronchitis, lung cancer, and so on. The fact that you all come up with every excuse you can think of to not install a necessary Ordinance is incomprehensible. We have been begging you for months to do that. Is it not your job to listen and respond to your citizen's requests? Correct me if I'm wrong, but I think it should be the job of anyone in power to listen to their citizens who depend on their local municipalities to respond to their concerns.

Can this please be the last time we ever have to do this, because you will have finally installed an ordinance that properly addresses this endangering open burn, per your citizens request?

Logan Miller

Sent from my iPhone

## **5. CONSENT AGENDA**

### **5.1. Adoption of September 8, 2020 regular meeting minutes**

#### **Motion**

Kelly Melang made a motion to adopt the meeting minutes of September 8, 2020 and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **6. NEW BUSINESS**

### **6.1. Utility CIP 10-Yr Financial Model Summary, McGill Associates Engineering**

Mr. Pudney introduced engineer Mr. Dale Schepers with McGill Associates Engineering. He noted that the presentation was slated for June but was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Mr. Schepers, Senior Consultant for McGill Associates Engineering reviewed the Public Works Water and Sewer Utility 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for Beech Mountain. He noted that the report measures and assesses the management of the utility as well as assesses the rates, dollars taken into the system, debt service numbers and other dynamics of the system. He reviewed the revenues, operating expenses, and the amount of consumption currently along with the projections and capital revenue with our capacity for present customers and capacity for future customers.

Mr. Schepers stated that the methodology is quantified as standard measures as accepted by the American Waterworks Association and is basic industry standards for arriving at these results. These standards are applied to the measurements and the revenue requirements analysis forecasts future needs with current needs and projects and forecasts all the revenue which is needed for next 10-year planning period, to keep the water and sewer system operable, viably these are the revenue projects to achieve that goal.

He provided a presentation and reviewed the slides. The operating expenses and existing debt service, the cash financed for our capital improvements, as well as the protected debt service in order to finance for the future. He stated he would review the costs moving forward and what the future rates should be in order to meet the needs of the system. He pointed out the revenue requirements analysis at current rates without the Watauga River Intake is the first set of data. The improvements to the system such as replacement of leaking pipes, sewer treatment plant equipment maintenance, replacement of mains and water lines, maintain water plant storage tanks and pumps.

He noted the previous projection for the 1.25% revenue system growth which calculated the costs and capital investments needed for maintaining and having control over system. We know we must perform preventative and predictive maintenance before any system failure, is the best practice for effective management.

In response to Councilmen Abernethy's inquiry, Mr. Schepers explained that the CIP formula is calculated by both his firm for the last 4 years and the Town's Staff. Recently the Capital Improvement Plan was updated by the Public Works Staff. The calculations included previous Public Works Director, Robert Heaton who worked with McGill Engineering, so the analysis is calculated from previous and current data combined.

Mr. Schepers reiterated the CIP investments needed to be made without the Watauga water river intake were outlined as such in the 10-Year Planning Period at the current rates noted in the monthly residential bill fee increases from 2020 through 2030. The State requires a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan. He reviewed the residential billing from 2020 through the years noting the minimum effect on customer bills which was approximately a 6% increase per year. Compared to the state average which is 5% increase, we are 1% above the State average.

There was a question and answer period regarding the rates and the effect on rates from FY: 2020- 21 through FY: 2029-2030. Mr. Schepers noted the rates dashboard are also supplied from the School of Government which has the comparisons. The current water and sewer utility improvements are financed through the NC DEQ Clean Water State Revolving Fund and there are approximately 15 million dollars' worth of Capital Improvements identified in the analysis report with the line item details included in the scenario which did not include the Watauga River Water Intake Project.

Mr. Schepers next reviewed the Capital Investments data and details with the Watauga River Intake Project forecast to begin in 2025, which adds the 20-million-dollar expense into the report. The added expense will add a 10% increase to the customer billing per year. He pointed out the detailed line item expenses report calculated over the 10-year planning period analysis the expenses with the Watauga River Intake Project. The year 2025 includes the Watauga River Intake supplemental water source as a Capital Improvement Plan including the construction costs and operating expenses. The plan analysis was partnered with West Consultants for arriving at operating costs estimates and would be ready in 2027. The analysis does not include a bridge loan, such as funded by USDA. The debt service payments were calculated to include the gap, so debt burden begins in year 2025.

He explained the maximum borrowing ratio, that we do not want to borrow too much money, and they based the debt burden on the American Waterworks Association Research Foundation benchmarks and capital funding from equity sources. A project wants to determine the minimum amount financed for a capital improvement so there is not excess debt burden which on average is approximately 80% or 20% of cash for an effectively run utility project. Mr. Schepers said that is the definition and ours is calculated for 17% to be funded by cash.

Vice Mayor Accardi inquired into the bottom line as to the utility bill increases, Mr. Schepers reiterated the charges and the definitions included in the report. The report covers all revenues to be collected in whatever form of

fees and charges and said by 2030 the minimum Water/Sewer residential bill should be \$149.35 in order to maintain the system operating with the Watauga Water Intake project.

Mr. Pudney said the increased \$5.00 sur charge approved in the Fiscal Year budget for 2020-2021 has paid for the design, planning and first phase picture of the engineering plan of the Watauga River Water Intake Project. We believe that these numbers give us a good picture of what the rate structure for commercial and residential could be for the next 10 years. This initial phase allows Council to determine what direction to take for financing and the cost comparison model summary plots a planned growth anticipated over the next 10 years. Of course, actual growth and or interest rates will affect the model and that will be adjusted but looking forward, this report gives the Town the projections for addressing the needed secondary water source into the Public Works operating system.

## **6.2. FY: 2020-21 Budget Priority Update - Town Manager's Office**

Mr. Pudney provided a 90-day Fiscal Year 2020-2021 report based on the Town Council's priority goals as determined by Council's budget retreat.

- Infrastructure- spearheaded by Vice Mayor Accardi and Councilmember Gonyea
- Roadways- spearheaded by Councilmember Abernethy and Councilmember Melang
- Website/Social Media- spearheaded by Councilmember Melang and Councilmember Gonyea
- Cost Savings- spearheaded by Vice Mayor Accardi
- Gravel Roadways- spearheaded by Mayor Kaufman

Mr. Daniel Davis, Public Works Utility Director reviewed the status of infrastructure projects as well as roadways and gravel roads. He stated that the well drilling has begun for supplemental source water and the underway construction process will determine if there is viable water sources for added capacity and will continue to be a priority. He anticipated that data on the well drilling will be available in November. The Watauga River Water Intake project was just addressed on the agenda by the engineering firm and consultant Mr. Dale Schepers, and Mr. Davis added that is also a priority for the Town's future and is underway.

Mr. Davis stated our State Revolving Fund (SRF) infrastructure improvement projects to the Water and Sewer Utility are currently underway and there will be 8 miles of infrastructure improvements completed by August of 2021. There are 98 service line replacements with a target goal of 150 by the end of the fiscal year. We are replacing 26 fire hydrants and nearly 10 miles of new pavement is constructed along gravel roads.

Our new Public Works Facility is on schedule. Mr. Davis added that roads and pavement have 12,000 feet of paint and striping of Hi-Vis line paint. Road stabilization, hydro-seeding, mowing, water control and other roadside maintenance is on-going for Beech Mountain Parkway beautification. He

pointed out the long-term drainage issues in specific problem spots have been resolved with new culverts and drainage fields. Some were large excavation projects that Public Works crews expertly repaired along with manholes and roadways. Mr. Davis presented in various photographs proving the scope of the work utilize heavy equipment with large amounts of manpower to complete these projects.

The new garbage and recycling procedures were implemented at the Convenience Center. Many residents had many opinions mostly positive, but visitors and tourists were turned away if they did not possess the proper permit placard. Construction debris and materials being dumped at the site has been addressed as this material is no longer accepted. The Town has hired the contractor Mile High Landscaping for landscape and roadway maintenance and great contract work and positive reviews.

In response to Councilmember Gonyea's question regarding the ground digging, Mr. Davis said we dial 811 no cuts to ensure no other infrastructure lines are disturbed. He stated the fiber optics are also in the ground and those are 2" lines and can be \$30,000. He described the work and the crew's professionalism.

Mr. Steve Smith presented the Finance Administration's cost savings programs. He noted the implemented measures to increase cost efficient operations which included the permitting process required at the Convenience Center requiring all users of the dump and recycle center to pay for usage.

Public Works installed the new fuel distribution system for the gas and diesel pumps as well as a diagnostic C scanner which has saved \$14,000. There is the new DUDE asset management and work order software utilized by departments for vehicle equipment PM maintenance. Mr. Davis added that the DUDE tracks details such as hours of labor and equipment mileage are also data included in projects. All equipment through the Public Works shop such as excavation equipment to chain saws, generators, heavy equipment, and vehicles are categorized and DUDE tracks and measures daily systems concurrent with our GIS mapping system. This software tracks items like potholes and infrastructure mains locations and these are reported and tracked in the DUDE system.

Mr. Pudney added we now analyse, summarize and produce in real time reports of maintenance and repairs with this useful tool. Public Works operates more efficiently so routine maintenance and system upgrades do not fall thru cracks.

There is now a greenhouse for landscaping and beautification projects for Ms. Susie Knepka to utilize to save money by housing and storing perennial plants for the next season.

The Town implemented the new bill pay feature 'Easy Pay'. This has been initiated through the website for utility and tax account customers. Mr. Smith stated we have 250 accounts signed up in the Easy Pay system and customer payments are automatically posted for utility billing, account balances

and property taxes, therefore, Mr. Smith said the customer service is streamlined.

The Town contracted the roadway maintenance so landscaping and mowing in the Rights-of-Way was performed by seasonal workers. This allowed for our skilled employees to perform skilled tasks such as the drainage projects reported on by Mr. Davis. In response to Councilmember Gonyea, Mr. Davis acknowledge that a few of the seasonal workers became full-time employees of the Town so we have retained good team employees through the program.

Mr. Smith explained that there are opportunities to purchase cleaning disinfectant equipment through the government COVID-19 reimbursement program and the Town is taking advantage of those CARES ACT funds. Mr. Smith noted the format shift for budget transparency, the cost shifting measures taken and the user fees implemented as per Council's directive. He hopes to present a review analysis at the next Budget Retreat for Town Council's evaluation of the processes implemented for cost savings.

Mr. Royal provided the Parks and Recreation report and noted that the new website is currently being built by Big Boom and the rollout is expected to happen January 1, 2021. He highlighted the summer events which took place during the pandemic as the slip-n-slide, drive-in movie nights, virtual trivia nights, the Fall Festival and the Halloween Haunted Trail and Treat scheduled for October 30, 2020 in order that Parks and Recreation to provide socially distanced events. Recreation projects include:

- New trail head kiosks built on the mountain with permanent directional maps
- New staircase built on Upper Pond Creek
- New Trail in progress on the Emerald Outback
- New trail built at Buckeye Lake Loop
- Lake Coffey Restroom
- Shane Park Restroom facility and tent campground

Mr. Royal presented the model for the new website and he reviewed the Buckeye Recreation Center maintenance updates that occurred while it was closed.

## **7. OLD BUSINESS**

- 7.1. Planning Board Vacant Term: per Council's direction, Staff posted Planning Board vacancy notice on the Town's website on the front page and in announcements for another 30 days. No new application submissions were received, and staff is awaiting further instruction.

Councilmember Melang nominated Lesley Johnson to the vacant term. Mayor Kaufman noted that the Planning Board has full membership, and the board would convene to appoint the Chairman position.

## **Motion**

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to appoint Lesley Johnson to the Planning Board vacancy to a term ending December 2022 and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **8. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS**

### **8.1. Town Manager's Administrative Updates**

Mr. Pudney provided the Manager's Office updates and said we are in Phase 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. He noted that means there are no changes to our public meetings. We are not able to hold in-person meetings due to the size of Council Chambers, the capacity restrictions and social distance requirements as mandated by the State. We will continue to use the live stream YouTube channel and the Zoom meetings for public participation. He said there was a spike in cases in Watauga, mostly associated with Appalachian State University.

Mr. Pudney said the Town has received reimbursement from the CARES Act Funding purchasing disinfectant fogger machines, another roadway message board, PPE supplies, and security technology to enhance our emergency protocols for cleansing, health and safety of the public and employees. Due to the pandemic, Mr. Pudney informed Council that there was an adjustment to the holiday leave policy. Holiday leave time must be used by November 1st but has been extended 90 days since staff was not permitted to use vacation time under stay-at-home orders. We have extended that date to March 1, 2021 as it is a use-it or lose-it program.

Mr. Pudney reviewed the status of various projects. Shane Park dedication ceremony was held and was well attended. Staff is working on rules. When the Park policy and procedures are completed, the department will post the hours of operation, and the rules and the gate will be locked from dusk to dawn except for registered campers. There will be increased police patrols in the area.

The new Public Works Facility construction is on-schedule. The new Convenience Center procedures are streamlined, and the process is easier for usage. Paving and striping of roadways are completed for the season, and the work will begin again in the spring. The infrastructure projects are on-schedule with the water and sewer line replacement on time and on budget. This work will be halted in November and will restart in the spring as well. We are striving for better notification of residents and visitors when service is interrupted, by crews hanging door hangers, using message boards and social media for notification as well as it is posted on the website.

We are drilling the wells which are on-schedule, and Public Works will report back to Council the findings for the supplemental water sources. Mr. Pudney pointed out the contractor, Iron Mountain will move the construction materials out of the temporary storage yard, generously provided by the Beech

Mountain Resort.

The Avery County Health Department was returning on Thursday 10/15/2020 to administer Flu Vaccines at Town Hall. Participants are to bring their insurance card; this is open to the public. The staff Health Insurance Committee survey is completed, and Mr. Pudney will have a recommendation from that committee at the November Council meeting. Mr. Pudney announced Fire Prevention Week which is a great time to review fire safety plans, please call the fire department with any questions or requests.

There was a discussion regarding planning for the future on Beech Mountain as the town is experiencing higher than normal occupancy rates. Mr. Pudney relayed his concerns for providing all services with this increased population. The Town has had an acute demographic shift over the past 6 months. All indicators show an increase in long-term occupancy. Water meters and consumption are at 60% to 80% usage, and Mr. Pudney said the question is how will this impact our water and sewer operations, plus impacts to solid waste, public safety and emergency services, building and zoning and long range planning. Mr. Pudney proposed staff begin scheduling a long-range planning committee, headed by the Planner, Preston Yates to address this shift in population growth. Mayor Kaufman noted we shall see if this is just a COVID-19 pandemic short-term trend or if people will continue to live on the mountain as a permanent residence. There was general consensus for establishing a long-range planning committee of departmental staff to address this issue.

- 8.2. Police Department Monthly Report
- 8.3. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 8.4. Department of Infrastructure Reports
- 8.5. TDA October Report
- 8.6. August Finance and Budget Update
- 8.7. Planning and Inspections Report 2020-09
- 8.8. September 2020 Recreation Report

## **9. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS**

- 9.1. Councilmember Melang announced it was the Navy's 244th anniversary on October 13, 2020. She stated that there was a 'locals night' event held at Land of Oz Park which raised \$709.00 for the Volunteer Fire Department. She noted the infrastructure improvement project in Charter Hills had posted detour signs which helped notify residents and there is positive progress on the project. She added many compliments were received for the beautification and landscaping maintenance and bear cages are working.

Councilmember Abernethy commented on the forward progress of staff services adjusting to the population capacity. He said due to heavy fog the

town needs more reflectors on the parkway and main roads. Drivers can't see stripes. For added safety factor the center line should have reflectors, to which Mr. Pudney stated the Town has addressed this process of installing the recessed reflectors but it is difficult to find a vendor. We contacted NC DOT regarding the matter and we have it budgeted and posted as a project on the list to complete but we need to find a contractor who will bid this project. Mr. Pudney added that reflective beads are in the paint striping which is not the same as a yellow reflector, but we cannot locate a contractor who will perform this work, so it is not a cost issue.

Vice Mayor Accardi commented on the Water and Sewer Utility 10-Year Plan and he noted the data gathered and forecasts the town's growth trend, but it is Council's bottom line to determine the cost increase. The Town's Water and Sewer fees must account for the Watauga Water Intake Project the report provides good data.

Councilmember Gonyea addressed the services and programs provided by the departments which continued through the summer during COVID-19. There has been no lapse in people arriving here as reported by the Tourism Development Authority. She thanked the manager and staff and Mr. Pudney pointed out the Town Council 'champions' and leadership allows us to be funded and with resources allows staff to move Council's projects forward.

Mayor Kaufman stated the Public Works well drilling in in process and we will learn if one of the wells produce water. He echoed the Council members gratitude and thanked the hard work of Staff. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to move to Closed Session.

### **Motion**

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to move to Closed Session pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(3) Sales Tax- Attorney Client matters and Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **10. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(3) SALES TAX- ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS**

- 10.1. There being no action to be taken from Closed Session. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to open the regular meeting from closed session.

### **Motion**

Weidner Abernethy made a motion moved to return to the regular meeting from closed session and Erin Gonyea seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

- 11.1. There being no further business, Mayor Kaufman requested a motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m.

**Motion**

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

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Town Clerk

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Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain