



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, January 14, 2025
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, 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 January 14th, 2025 meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

1.2. Mayors Message:

I would like to welcome everyone to today's meeting. I am pleased to see some new faces taking part in the town council meeting.

Officer Don Abbott spoke about the recent success of the Shop with a Cop event. The police department to multiple avenues to assist children in Avery and Watauga counties and 191 children in total were a part of this year's program. Mayor Abernethy explained the police department had a realistic goal of raising \$3,000.00 for this event and with the help of the community and organizations the Beech Mountain Police Department raised approximately \$30,000.00.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

2.1. Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to adopt the amended agenda adding item 6.2 Bridge Loan Resolution.

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to adopt the amended agenda Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

5.1. John Beeken of 108 St Andrews Road-

We are far past Helene at this point however I have to compliment you all but in particular Chief Pudney, an incredible response. What you did and how you did it versus others, is fantastic.

My second comment is also around Helene- the water shortage we are now facing. I hope we're doing everything we can with our renters to get the notice and seriousness of this matter.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

6.1. Adoption of Minutes

6.2. Bridge Loan Resolution

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to approve the the consent agenda Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1. Trail Town Designation Program

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to grant permission to apply to the Trail Town Designation Program Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

7.2. 2024 Audit and Financial Statements Presentation

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to accept the 2024 Audit and Financial Statement Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

8.1. Town Manager Report:

- 1.Ski Resort traffic control changes are working.
 - a. Signage
 - b.Towing
 - c.Fire lane for fire trucks

d. Overflow parking communications

e. Avg 4328 cars per day past Town Hall. Sunday 1-12 we counted 6591 vehicles.

2. Town Hall / Visitor Center—progress. Interior finishing and bathroom fixtures have made progress. We are and we are waiting for the final electrical and plumbing inspections. The parking lot will be replaced in the spring. We are withholding funds to cover the cost.

3. FEMA projects –

a. Buckeye Lake – hired engineers, Mattern and Craig – sonar mapping of the debris in the lake, designing a permissible process to remove the debris and haul it away. Will include the “dry” materials near Shane Park. Applied to the Army Corp of Engineers for a waiver and expedited permit. Geotech drilling is to begin next week near Shane Park to determine the composition and quantity of the “dry” debris.

b. Buckeye Dam and water plant repairs – same engineer designing repairs.

c. Stage 2 water conservations continue- we are not seeing substantial reduction in water sales. Lake is holding with capacity.

d. Charter Hills Road – engineers designing a repair to present to FEMA.

e. Roadway, ditches and culverts – expect to make emergency repairs to blocked culverts immediately. Developing bid performance requirements to meet FEMA guidelines. Ditches will be cleaned then repaired when the roads are repaired. Rain is causing additional damage.

f. Insurance payments – we are negotiating with our insurance carrier to agree on the cost of damages. FEMA requires all insurance to be accessed before committing to any repair. \$220,000.00 insured damages.

g. Utility (water and sewer) – hired west consultants to design a package (like a SRF project) to submit for permitting and funding. This is a longer-term process due to the required design and permit process. Expect FEMA reimbursement.

h. Debris removal – negotiated an increase in per cubic yard cost (\$13.50 from \$9.50) and required at minimum of ten trucks each day with a 45-day completion date. We have seen a substantial increase in the amount of material being removed. The increase was approved by FEMA. As of yesterday, 29 trucks operating at 20,000 cubic yards of debris have been transported out of the town.

4. Hired additional finance staff to assist with required reporting and accounting.

5. Salt supplies—Due to the winter weather and low temperatures, we have had to replace our salt supply with two months to go. We ordered and took delivery

of 1000 tons.

6. Pay attention to the upcoming winter weather, specifically the extreme cold temperatures over the next 6-10 days. Protect water pipes from freezing, have fuel supplies checked. We plan to open Buckeye Recreation Center if conditions warrant.

7. Shop with a cop was a tremendous success, and \$30,000 was donated. Capt. Gary Miller headed up the project.

8. Budget retreat – January 23rd at 8:30 am.

8.2. November 2024 Finance and Budget Report

8.3. December 2024 Recreation Report

8.4. Fire Department Monthly Report

8.5. Police Department Monthly Report

8.6. DOI Monthly Report

8.7. TDA Report January 2025

8.8. Planning & Inspections Monthly Report 2024-12

9. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

9.1. Councilmember Stanford- We have the budget workshop coming up- The needs post-hurricane should be our priority. MLK holiday weekend is approaching and I feel the resort and the town are prepared for the amount of people and traffic this brings.

Vice Mayor Melang- Thank you Public Works for the great jobs keeping our roads cleared during this winter season. Beech Mountain Historical Society has been named one of the ten best small-town museums. Please go to [newsweek.com](https://www.newsweek.com) and place your vote for the Beech Mountain Historical Society.

Councilmember Villanova- 2024 was an extraordinary year for Beech Mountain. I would like to thank Chief Pudney, town employees, business owners, and residents for making 2024 extraordinary. The question has been asked where the water source comes from for the sledding hill. I have confirmed with Chief Pudney that this water comes from a well and is not potable water.

Councilmember Beckmann- Great article sent out in the newsletter regarding water conservation. Simple changes- do not rinse dishes before putting them in the dishwasher, do full loads of laundry, and check for leaking faucets. STRs have received this information and we need to focus on the seriousness of water conservation. Please remember to be thankful for the town employees who continue to do a great job.

Mayor Abernethy- The upcoming budget needs to be necessities for

infrastructure and needs that have become after the hurricane. The progress that has been made to the town in the past 3 to 4 years has been incredible and we need to continue moving forward. Thank you council for always working as a team. Thank you, town employees, fire department, and residents for the incredible recovery we have made. Thank you all for attending today's meeting.

10. CLOSED SESSION - PURSUANT TO NC GS 143-318.11 (A)(5) ATTORNEY CLIENT MATTERS

- 10.1.** Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to enter into closed session- Pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11 (a)(5) Attorney-Client Matters.

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to enter into a closed session M.W. Stanford seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 10.2.** Mayor Abernethy called the January regular town council meeting back to order at 6:02 PM.

- 10.3.** Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to accept the contract for the purchase of parcel ID 1941-63-9365-000 and 1941-72-0746-000.

Motion

M.W. Stanford made a motion to accept the purchase contract and Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

- 11.1.** Mayor Abernethy requested a motion to adjourn at 6:03 PM.

Motion

Alan Villanova made a motion to adjourn at 6:03 PM Art Beckmann seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain