



MINUTES

Regular Town Council Meeting

4:00 PM - Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Council Chambers

The Regular Town Council of the Town of Beech Mountain was called to order on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 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

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 Barry Kaufman requested a motion to amend the agenda to add item 8.5, Resolution 2023-22.

Motion

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

3. INVOCATION- DEWEY CYCLONE BRETT

4. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

5. PROCLAMATION OF APPRECIATION

- 5.1. Proclamation of Appreciation
Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi read the Proclamation of Appreciation for Senator Ralph Hise, Representative Dudley Green and Representative Ray Pickett. The Council then presented those proclamations to those present.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 6.1. Robert McMichael of 710 Pine Ridge Road recognized and thanked the council for their service. Wished the outgoing Mayor and Vice Mayor well and welcomed them to the other side of the microphones.

7. CONSENT AGENDA

- 7.1. Adoption of Minutes
- 7.2. Resolution of Tentative Contract Award

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.3. 2023 Water and Sewer Project RFQ acceptance

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve West Consultants, Benjie Thomas as the engineering firm to design and oversee the upcoming project Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 7.4. FY 2023 Budget Amendment #2024-03

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion approve Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

- 8.1. Call for a Public Hearing on Rezoning of Buckeye Nest NC, LLC Property (REZ 2023-0502)

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion for Town Council to call for a Public Hearing at the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, at 4:00 PM Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 8.2. Resolution Fixing a Date for Public Hearing on Annexation of Buckeye Nest NC, LLC Property (ANX 2023-0496)

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the resolution fixing a date for Public Hearing on annexation of Buckeye Nest NC, LLC property Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

- 8.3. Resolution of Intent to Annex Town Property and Fixing a Date for Public Hearing (ANX 2023-0520)

Motion

Kelly Melang made a motion to approve the resolution if intent to annex town property and fixing a date for Public Hearing Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.4. Holiday Light Walking trail

Motion

Jimmie Accardi made a motion to approve the Holiday Light Walking Trail Weidner Abernethy seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

8.5. Resolution 2023-22

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-22 Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

9. TOWN MANAGER AND STAFF REPORTS

9.1. Town Manager's Comments

Jeff Fish, building inspector, passed away on October 23rd. He was a shining beacon of light in our employee family. You could not find a more positive and caring person in the world. He will be missed.

Water restrictions – still at stage 1, voluntary 5%. Lake Buckeye continues to be in violation of the permit. Need rain.

Burn ban in effect for both Watauga and Avery counties, includes the town. No outdoor burning of any type.

Skiloff Road update – held the third neighborhood meeting on October 26th to go over the final plans and answer community questions. The project is on track, and we will begin no later than April 1, 2024. You approved a tentative contract award tonight, still waiting for final state approval.

Pinnacle well is on track to be completed this month then wait for state testing and approval. January 1st is the target date for water into the system.

Town Hall / Visitor Center project update- Ten days behind schedule coming into the winter months. Roofing is the next big item that the public will see. Expect to have the project completed in May.

Lake Coffey – Funding is secured with state and bond funds, the project will move forward. I wanted to thank the community for the overwhelming support for the bond issue. FEMA funding has had some life as we have been asked

for additional information. Design and engineering are moving forward as quickly as possible. The water transmission line to the water plant has been staked out, meetings with property owners are underway for easements. Bond certification from the state is expected in early December.

The financial audit has been delivered to the LGC for review and comment, I expect the auditor to make a presentation to the town council at the December 12th meeting.

Wynn Park has been dedicated, thank you to Michael Holland and the Volunteer Fire Department. What an improvement to this very important section of our town.

Christmas parade December 21st, snow or shine. Santa's workshop relocated to the Brick Oven Pizza due to construction at Town Hall. Call Buckeye Recreation with any questions.

Congratulations to the newly elected town council members, the staff and I look forward to working with this new group of legislators. I have scheduled a new council orientation for December 5th to go over the various items new members will need to know before taking office.

- 9.2. Finance and Budget Report for September 2023
- 9.3. Police Department Monthly Report
- 9.4. October 2023 Recreation Report
- 9.5. Fire Department Monthly Report
- 9.6. Planning and Inspections Monthly Report 2023-10
- 9.7. TDA Report November 2023
- 9.8. DOI Monthly Report Nov. 23

10. TOWN COUNCIL COMMENTS

- 10.1. Councilmember Kelly Melang congratulated the winning candidates and looking forward to working with each of you. She then thanked everyone who attended the Meet the Candidates event that was held at the Buckeye Recreation Center stating it was a very productive night. To close councilmember Melang then thanked all who voted and let them know that their voice matters and will continue to be heard.

Councilmember Weidner Abernethy thanked everyone who had a part in this huge accomplishment of receiving 14 million dollars, this is a big day for Beech Mountain. Councilmember Abernethy asked about the towns current salt supply to which Bob Pudney said the supply is full and waiting for winter weather to get the rest of the supply that is ordered in our storage facility. He then confirmed equipment needed for snow removal is ready. The town has lost a Ski Patrol member of 55 years, Mr. Mike Ohlson passed away unexpectedly this week. Last week Mr. Mike and I were riding on my ATV and he made the comment that, "Beech Mountain has never looked as good as it does now." I just want to say hats off to the town employees and continue the

hard work. We still have a lot of infrastructure projects ahead of us so we must keep moving forward and continue the progress we have made. Thank you to all who have attended our meeting today. Thank you our Mayor Barry Kaufman and Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi for your years of service and work to the town.

Vice Mayor Jimmie Accardi addressed Senator Hise and Representative Greene and each of those who had a hand in Beech Mountain receiving 14 million dollars. This is a vital need for our town, water. We truly appreciate you on behalf of the town, the businesses, the visitors we thank you for doing this. Next if you haven't seen the new police car, Captain Miller designed the new logo and added a sasquatch that is really cool. Be sure to check that out! Congratulations to the oncoming council members and most importantly the bond being passed. This Thursday i will be hosting a fundraiser at the restaurant, Friendsgiving. Please come join us donations made will go to our Volunteer Fire Department and Police Department. Thank you all for the great opportunity to work along side with each of you and I really appreciate you taking me in and teaching me and showing me the ropes of town politics. Lastly, I hope the new council really considers getting behind Weidner Abernethy as the next mayor and supporting him.

Mayor Barry Kaufman thanked each of those who has assisted us. We hope to see more to come with the Federal government. I would like to congratulate the new council. We have a very important commodity in Beech Mountain, that is our employees. Going into a budget year there will be a lot of pressure on salaries and benefits with the employees but please remember they are very important for the town. It has been a pleasure to work for the town.

11. ADJOURNMENT

11.1. Mayor Kaufman requested a motion for adjournment at 4:48pm.

Motion

Weidner Abernethy made a motion to adjourn at 4:48pm Kelly Melang seconded the motion. CARRIED. unanimously.

Town Clerk

Mayor, Town of Beech Mountain