

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – October 11, 2011

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 3:08 p.m., Tuesday October 11, 2011 in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other Council Members present were Paul Piquet, Rick Miller, Cindy Keller and Alan Holcombe. Town Attorney Stacy C. Eggers, IV was present. Staff members present were Town Manager Randy Feierabend; Town Clerk Jennifer Broderick, Town Planner James Scott and Fire Chief Robert Pudney.

II. Invocation – John Troxler presented the invocation.

III. Pledge of Allegiance – All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

IV. Adoption of Agenda – Mayor Owen stated that the agenda would stand as presented.

V. Approval of the Minutes

a. September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting – Vice Mayor Piquet motioned to approve the September 20, 2011 Regular Meeting Minutes with an amendment to § VIII. New Business c. Geographic Information System Equipment. Councilman Holcombe seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

b. September 20, 2011 Closed Session Minutes – Vice Mayor Piquet motioned to approve the September 20, 2011 Closed Session Minutes. Councilman Miller seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comment – There was no public comment.

VII. New Business

a. 'ROCK the Blue Ridge' Bike Ride – Lora Elder, representing 'ROCK the Blue Ridge' Bike Ride, addressed Council stating that she was a huge supporter of sports tourism. Mrs. Elder pronounced that the intention was to use this gorgeous area to nurture this market. Mrs. Elder stated that 'ROCK the Blue Ridge' is expanding to a 100 mile biking event. This 100 mile distance is known as a 'Century' and is the gold-standard of bike events. This increase in mileage will attract larger organizations as participants. Mrs. Elder requested that Council allow this bike ride to offer an optional spur to climb the front of Beech Mountain on the Parkway. Mrs. Elder pointed out that this event was not a race and that timing equipment was not involved. A Beech Mountain climb would be strictly optional and the expectation would be that there would only be a few riders that would elect to participate in the climb. Since the event was not timed no roads would be shut down. The event is slated for Sunday, August 26, 2012. Mayor Owen spoke on behalf of Council stating the Towns support of the event.

b. Set Public Hearing to Amend the Permitted Decibel Level of Wind Energy Systems as a Conditional Use – Town Planner James Scott provided an overview to Council of the

proposed amendment. Mr. Scott stated that the Planning Board has proposed a decibel level of 40 for permitted wind energy systems. A 40 decibel level is the approximate equivalent of a normal conversation. Vice Mayor Piquet motioned to set the public hearing for Councils next regularly scheduled meeting. Councilman Holcombe seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously. Councilwoman Keller stated that there should be further review of the ordinance; specifically pertaining to the limitations that had been set forth regarding the location of these types of systems. Councilwoman Keller felt that these should be broadened.

VIII. Old Business

a. Set Public Hearing for § 154.355 – 154.376 “Tree Regulations and Penalties – Town Planner James Scott stated that staff was requesting to reschedule the public hearing for Councils upcoming meeting. Councilman Holcombe motioned to schedule the public hearing for Councils next regularly scheduled meeting. Vice Mayor Piquet seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

b. Set Public Hearing for Manufacturing Processing Uses – Town Planner James Scott stated that staff was requesting to reschedule the public hearing for Councils upcoming meeting. Councilman Holcombe motioned to schedule the public hearing for Councils next regularly scheduled meeting. Vice Mayor Piquet seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

IX. Town Manager and Staff Reports

Injured Wildlife Policy – Manager Feierabend shared with Council the Wildlife Policy that would be used by the Police Department in determining when there was a public safety issue and additional assistance was required. Mayor Owen commended staff stating that by creating an internal policy the Town was not entering into any type of contract.

Dog Park – Manager Feierabend stated that \$3,000 has already been donated for the proposed dog park and that there is another \$4,000 pending. These pending monies are conditional on this community chest fund becoming coded by the IRS as a 501(c)(3). Staff has filled out the necessary paperwork to obtain a 501(c)(3) status for this project. Councilman Holcombe stated that staff might want to consider a time out area for dogs too. Manager Feierabend stated that staff would look into incorporating this idea within the site plan.

Autumn at Oz Report – Manager Feierabend stated that Autumn at Oz was a successful event with there being approximately 7,500 tickets sold this year.

Fire Code Inspection of Public Buildings – Manager Feierabend stated that Fire Chief Robert Pudney has gone through the Towns buildings inspecting them for fire safety. Most of the Town properties are currently meeting the Fire Code relating to portable fire extinguishers with just a few properties requiring additional fire extinguishers. Staff will be working on installing these fire extinguishers. Manager Feierabend stated that one of the issues discovered through the safety inspection was that the Town does not have adequate fire fighting capability at the top of the mountain by the Recycling Center and Public Works area. The lack of safety is due to there being no fire hydrant at this location. Staff will be working on installing a fire hydrant at this location this fall.

November Meeting Date – Manager Feierabend stated that the next regularly scheduled council meeting fell on Election Day. As a result Attorney Eggers, who serves on the Watauga Board of Elections, would be unable to attend but can send representation in lieu. After much discussion Councilman Miller motioned to move the November regularly scheduled Council meeting to Tuesday, November 15th at 3:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber room. Vice Mayor Piquet seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

Utility Project Update

Water Meter – Manager Feierabend stated that there were only 240 radio read meters left to be installed of the 1,950 meters.

Supplemental Water Intake Project – Manager Feierabend stated that the letter provided to Council shows that the project to reclassify the Watauga River has begun.

Water Plan Repair – Manager Feierabend informed Council that repairs at the Water Plant began today.

Pinnacle Water Tank Generator – Manager Feierabend stated that the water tank generator was to be delivered next week. It was staffs goal to be able to report to Council next month that this generator is in place and operational.

Public Works

6 Acre Road Access – Manager Feierabend stated that road installation had begun this week. This access point will lead to less congestion.

Truck Swap Loader and Spreader – Manager Feierabend stated that bids were opened yesterday for the Truck Swap Loader and Spreader. Staff had budgeted for \$127,000 which was the exact amount that the chosen bid came in at.

Parks and Recreation Center

Winter Hours – Manager Feierabend stated that these proposed hours have already gone through the Recreation Committee. The winter months constituted November through March. The Towns sledding hill hours have been proposed to be cut back as well. Manager Feierabend asked that Council bring their thoughts back to staff at the next Council meeting regarding the proposed sledding hill hours and the hill being closed when not staffed.

Special Winter Classes – Manager Feierabend stated that staff is making an attempt to bring visibility to themselves by bringing some of their classes to the top of the mountain. Classes would be held in the Council Chamber Room. Councilwoman Keller suggested checking with Fred Barth and utilizing his facility.

Planning Department

Streetscape – Manager Feierabend reported that the Pinnacle connection of the Streetscape Project has been roughed in with gravel. It will be left like this for the winter in order to allow the material to settle. In the spring more gravel will be placed on it followed by chat.

Geographic Information System Equipment – Manager Feierabend stated that the Geographic Information System Equipment was received today.

Tax Office – Manager Feierabend stated that the Watauga County Tax data had been sent off for data conversion on September 26th and was due back October 21st. The reason for the delay was because Watauga County had issues with new software they were using.

Police Report – Councilwoman Keller asked for an explanation of the 15 Recreation Deposits. Manager Feierabend stated that Police Officers picked up deposits and took them to the bank as necessary.

Meet the Candidates Night – John Troxler of the Chamber of Commerce stated that the Chamber of Commerce will host a ‘Meet the Candidates Night’ at Buckeye Recreation Center on Tuesday, November 1st. The time has not been established yet.

- X. ***Closed Session – Pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11(a)(3) Attorney Client Matters*** – Upon motion by Councilman Miller at 3:54 p.m., seconded by Vice Mayor Piquet, the Council voted unanimously to go into closed session pursuant to NC GS 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney Client Matters. Councilman Miller motioned to exit closed session at 5:00 p.m., which was seconded by Councilman Holcombe. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. ***Other Business***

Town Hall Sign – Randy Feierabend stated discussion had been held between himself and Councilwoman Keller regarding the current Town Hall sign. Councilwoman Keller stated that it would be nice to have some blue lighting. Councilman Miller thought that displaying the current temperature would be a nice feature as well.

Sign at the Bottom of the Mountain – Councilman Miller stated that he was still interested in the Town updating the sign at the bottom of the mountain. There was technology available that would enable the flashers on a new sign to be turned on and off from the top of the mountain when there were hazardous conditions. After much discussion Council did not choose to move forward with approving a new sign for the base of the mountain.

- XII. ***Adjourn*** – Upon motion to adjourn made by Councilman Miller and seconded by Councilman Holcombe the meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on November 15, 2011.

Richard H. Owen, Mayor

ATTEST:

Jennifer Broderick, Town Clerk