

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
June 10, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fred Pfohl called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 PM. Other Council Members present were Shiela Fletcher, Reub Mooradian, Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Attorney David Paletta, Public Works Director Joe Perry, Code Enforcement Officer Don Fulkerson and Town Engineer Ed Powell. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation. The meeting was opened in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance. Those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag

I. *Public Hearing, Watauga County Waste Management Plan.*

Seth Lawless gave an overview of the Watauga County Waste Management Plan, indicating that Beech Mountain and the other towns in the county have taken part in the development of the Plan. Its goal is 30% of waste recycled by 2001 and 40% by 2007. The Plan has been adopted by the county, and the Council will be asked to consider a resolution approving the Plan in the regular meeting to follow. A copy of the Plan is available for review in the office of the Town Clerk during normal business hours.

II. *Public Hearing, Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.*

Don Fulkerson outlined the three proposed changes: The first would prohibit drive-in or drive-thru restaurants; the second would require that all above-ground propane tanks conform to the screening requirements by July 1, 1998 (none will be grandfathered); and the third would require a five foot wide buffer between the road and the parking area in commercial zones.

III. *Public Hearing, Proposed FY 1997/98 Budget.*

Mr. Lawless stated the proposed budget is based upon a total property value of \$185,498,000, proposes no increase in the tax rate of 76¢ per \$100 of valuation, which will result in a \$1,374,550 tax levy (based upon a collection rate of 97.5%). There are no proposed increases in any fees. He noted there were several capital projects in the budget: Christie Way Paving Project (which will be paid for totally through property owner assessments), Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant expansion, new computer network for the administrative office, a new sand truck to replace an aging sand truck, new pickup truck for the water department, new disinfectant unit for the Pond Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant, continued maintenance on the Town's nine large water storage tanks. Mayor Pfohl noted that the Council had received the proposed budget May 29th and had conducted a budget workshop wherein they went over items in detail. He reminded those present that a copy of the budget is on file in the office of the Town Clerk for perusal at any time during normal business hours.

Martin Berger asked if the budget contained an \$8,000 figure for a survey on a municipal golf course. Mr. Lawless replied the money would be appropriated for a feasibility study, and Mr. Berger said he would prefer money be spent to upgrade the unpaved roads in Town.

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There being no further questions or comments from the audience, Shiela Fletcher moved the public hearings be closed. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and the hearings were closed at 6:15 PM

1. ***Adoption of Agenda.***

Reub Mooradian moved the agenda be approved as submitted. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. ***Consent Agenda.***

Reub Mooradian moved the consent agenda be approved. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and the following items were unanimously approved:

- a. Minutes of the Regular Meeting of May 13, 1997.
- b. Minutes of the Special Meeting of May 29, 1997

3. ***Committee Reports.***

Shiela Fletcher reported that she will be attending a North Carolina Resort Towns Association meeting in Charlotte at the end of the month

4. ***Persons Wishing to Address the Council: Avery Health Care System.***

Mayor Pfohl introduced Eddie Greene, Tony Fortune, Bill Farthing and Fred Connard who wished to make a presentation regarding the new County health care facility. Mr. Greene reported on the various options the boards of Cannon and Sloop Hospitals had faced in endeavoring to provide health care service for the County. There was no question that Cannon and Sloop could not continue to exist under current conditions. After studying the various options, the construction of a new facility was decided upon. The \$16 million facility will be constructed in Linville. It will operate in partnership with Carolinas Medical Center and the Watauga County Medical Center. Mr. Greene presented renderings of the site plan and the plans for the facility itself. He was asked what would be the chances of keeping an Emergency Room facility at Cannon and replied that it was not economically possible. He was asked how many minutes farther the new facility would be from Cannon, and replied it was some nine miles, but there was no possibility of retaining Cannon Hospital. He was asked what would happen to Cannon, and replied there were several options under consideration. The gentlemen outlined the fund raising activities which would take place and also commended the Beech Mountain Ladies Auxiliary for all the fine work they have done for Cannon.

5. ***New Business:***

- a. ***Consider Resolution 97-06-01, Adoption of Watauga County Waste Management Plan.*** Ed Waligroski moved the Watauga County Waste Management Plan be approved. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously
- b. ***Consider Amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.*** Shiela Fletcher moved approval of all three proposed amendments. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion. Rick Owen wondered if the description of the five foot landscaped buffer was too vague. Reub Mooradian asked what was the intent of the buffer, and Mr. Fulkerson said it was simply to screen the parking area a little

bit.. to make the roadside more attractive than it would be with a parking lot going right up to the road. Mr. Mooradian said he would like to see it worded in such a way that evergreen shrubs are a part of the landscaping to provide visual interest in winter. After some discussion, it was decided to change the suggested amendment to read "A buffer landscaped with a mix of evergreen shrubs, trees and flower beds at least five (5) feet wide is required to be planted and maintained along the road right-of-way." The question was called and the motion passed unanimously.

- c. ***Consider Amendment to the Solid Waste Management Ordinance.*** Don Fulkerson read the proposed amendment, which will require that all above-ground garbage containers conform to the specifications in the Ordinance by July 1, 1998 (none will be grandfathered). Mr. Lawless said that the Planning Board had considered going to all underground receptacles, but their recommendation was to make sure all the trash bins will be in compliance with the ordinance. Reub Mooradian said he was still unalterably opposed to above-ground cans. Shiela Fletcher moved that the amendment be approved. Rick Owen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mayor Pfohl said it is the intent of the Town to supply all owners of above-ground cans with two pieces of rope and instructions suggesting they tie their lids to the bins so they don't get lost or placed on the bottom of the bins.
- d. ***Consider Resolution 97-06-02, Creating Bicycle Race Event Reserve.*** Mr. Lawless read the resolution aloud. Mayor Pfohl noted that all funds raised in the past for Tour DuPont were private funds, and the Local Organizing Committee wished to retain the balance in reserve to use for another cycling event, should that arise, or for some of other special purpose. Reub Mooradian moved the resolution be approved. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- e. ***Consider Resolution 97-06-03, Creating an Office Equipment Reserve.*** Mr. Lawless reported that the Council had appropriated monies in the current year budget for office equipment which had not been spent, but the staff would like to retain a reserve for office equipment rather than have the monies go back into the General Fund. Shiela Fletcher moved the resolution be approved. Reub Mooradian seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- f. ***Consider Budget Ordinance, Christie Way Paving Project.*** Mr. Lawless indicated this would create a capital project fund for the paving of Christie Way, the costs of which would be borne by the property owners entirely. Rick Owen moved the ordinance be approved. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- g. ***Consider Budget Amendment, Water & Sewer Fund.*** Mr. Lawless indicated this would transfer monies received in availability fees into the reserve fund set up for water and sewer improvements. Reub Mooradian moved the amendment be approved. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- h. ***Consider Alternatives for Repair of Town Hall Sidewalk.*** Mr. Lawless presented three alternative solutions, all of which he noted were "ballpark" figures. One was to pave over the current sidewalk, one was to remove the sidewalk and replace with a new concrete sidewalk and the third was to put stone over the concrete in the same manner as the stone work outside the main door. There was a good deal of discussion, after which it was decided to seek more information and consider the matter at a later meeting.

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- i **Consider Adoption of FY 1997-98 Budget Ordinance.** Reub Mooradian moved the Budget Ordinance be adopted as submitted. Shiela Fletcher seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

6. **Staff/Consultant Reports:**

- a. **Town Engineer's Report.** Ed Powell reported that the Christie Way paving project will proceed shortly. Some of the Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant equipment has arrived and been placed with more to come later in the week. He anticipates the system will be operational by the date required by the Town's SOC.
- b. **Public Works Director's Report.** Joe Perry had no report. Ed Waligroski asked Mr Perry to be sure to have the roadsides mowed during the summer in areas besides the Parkway. Reub Mooradian complimented the Department for the wonderful job they did at the old water plant on Tamarack Road
- c. **Town Attorney's Report.** Mr. Paletta said that within the next 30 to 60 days the mediation on the penalty imposed by the State may occur. He said he would like five minutes or so in a closed session to discuss the matter.
- d. **Chief of Police's Report.** Chief Hefner had no report. Reub Mooradian asked when the last home breakin occurred, and Chief Hefner said he believed it was in April. Mr Mooradian suggested that be a line item on his report, since that is the one thing residents ask about with regularity.
- e. **Town Manager's Report.** Mr. Lawless reported that the Unmet Needs Committee had met and decided on the distribution of the grant the Town received for Hurricane Opal damage. The application will now be sent and Region D will administer the grant.

Mr. Lawless reported that the Chamber of Commerce met earlier in the day and there was discussion on the need for a Chamber building. A vote was taken and out of 15 voting, 14 wanted a building but they were split between whether it should be attached to the Town Hall or separate from it.

Mr. Lawless indicated there would be a tour of Town facilities at 9:30 AM Monday. The tour will consist of viewing the 9-1-1 system, the recycling area, wastewater treatment plant on Locust Ridge Road and the water plant at Buckeye Lake. Mayor Pfohl encouraged those in the audience to take the tour and to "talk it up" among friends, since it would be very informative of how the Town operates. Mr. Waligroski suggested the Fire Department be added to the tour. Mr. Lawless agreed, and indicated there would be another tour July 21st, if needed.

Mr. Lawless reported there would be a seminar in Asheville on July 8th which should be most informative. Reub Mooradian said he would like to attend.

7. **Other Business.**

Mayor Pfohl reported that two gentlemen from the DOI had visited the mountain and marked where the side lining on the Parkway should be placed so as to give us back our pedestrian walkway.

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8. *Closed Session, N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) and (6).*

The Council entered a closed session at 8:00 PM to receive counsel from the Town Attorney and to discuss a personnel matter. The Council came out of closed session at 9:35.

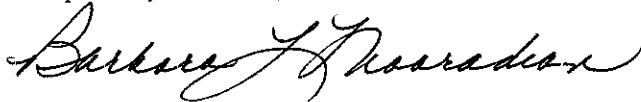
9. *Town Manager's Salary.*

Rick Owen moved to increase the Town Manager's salary by 5%. The motion was seconded by Reub Mooradian and passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to come before the Council, Shiela Fletcher moved the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by Ed Waligroski, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

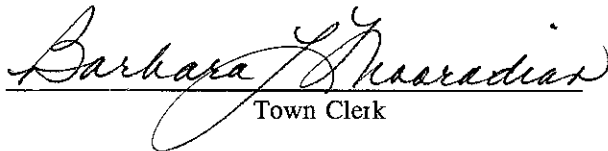


Barbara L. Mooradian
Town Clerk

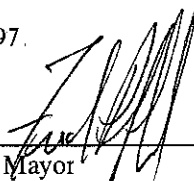
BLM/hs

Minutes approved by Town Council on July 8, 1997.

ATTEST:



Town Clerk



Mayor

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING
June 24, 1997

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Mayor Sheila Fletcher called the special meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 10:00 a.m. Other Council Members present were Rick Owen and Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless and Finance Officer Sally Rominger.


Sally Rominger stated that the budgeted contingency line items in the Town's various capital project funds need to be reduced to 5% of other appropriations in the projects according to the general statutes. Other budget amendments presented were a reduction of the amount of the ARC grant in the Bear Branch Sewer Outfall Line Project and adjustments to the various expense line items in that fund; removal of the contingency line item in the Tour DuPont Fund and an offsetting transfer to a Reserve for Future Project; a reimbursement to the Water and Sewer Fund for a prior year payment of the design fees for the Grassy Gap Wastewater Treatment Plant Expansion Capital Project and a reduction in the amount of the revolving loan with an offsetting reduction of the contingency to 5%.

Rick Owen moved to adopt all of the budget amendments as presented (copies attached to these minutes) Ed Waligroski seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

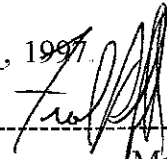
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Sally Rominger
Deputy Town Clerk

SLR/hs

Minutes approved by Town Council on July 8, 1997.



Mayor

ATTEST:


Deputy Town Clerk