

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
June 11, 2002

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the regular meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Tim Holland and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Town Engineer Mike Slusher, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Town Attorney David Paletta, Building Inspector Keith Cook and Tax Administrator Missy Norwood. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation - Chief Jay Hefner opened the meeting in prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance

All present joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

1. Adoption of Agenda

The agenda was adopted as submitted.

2. Consent Agenda

Mr. Chamberlin made a motion to accept the minutes of the May 14th Regular Meeting, the May 22nd Special Meeting and the May 28th Special Meeting as submitted. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Public Hearing

Mayor Owen opened the Public Hearing at 6:05 p.m. on the proposed 2002-2003 Budget Ordinance. Mayor Owen reported to the audience that the Council had received the budget on May 22nd and a workshop was held on May 28th. Mr. Lawless noted that the proposed tax rate was \$ 62.5 per \$100 of valuation and the water and sewer rate is proposed to increase 7.5% across the board. There are no other fee increases proposed.

Mr. Dale Waterhouse of 131 Raven Road asked about the Occupancy Tax being placed into the TDA fund to which Mayor Owen responded that a new state statute had changed the allocation of these funds to the Tourism Development Authority (TDA). The TDA is a separate governing body from the Town, however the board members are appointed by the Town Council, but operate independently from the Town. The TDA has scheduled a public hearing to adopt their budget on June 26th, the last Wednesday of the month.

Ralph Boswell of 101 Mockingbird Lane noted that it looked as though the major increases were going to the wastewater treatment plant. His suggestion was an increase in the impact fees. Mayor Owen indicated that the Council had discussed the idea and it would be looked at again in the future.

Mr. Lawless noted that the Town had applied for two grants and subsidized loan money through the State government. Additionally, the proposed budget has money set aside from the General Fund as well as the Water and Sewer Fund to get the repair work started.

Mr. Waterhouse asked about the tax increase revenue and what the Town planned to use the additional income for. Mr. Lawless explained that \$232,000 was allocated to the Grassy Gap Treatment Plant improvements and \$120,000 is to replace the funds that Governor Easley has withheld from the Town.

Mayor Owen responded to a comment that inferred that the Council made decisions based only upon opinions from the voters on Beech Mountain. Mayor Owen noted that he and the Council were glad to hear from anyone who took the time to come to a meeting and welcomed their suggestions and input regardless of their voting status.

Hearing no other comments Mayor Owen closed the public hearing at 6:10 P.M.

4. *New Business*

a. Consider Budget Ordinance

Mayor Owen noted that the 2002-2003 Budget Ordinance had the changes requested at the last workshop and asked for Council comments. Mr. Holland noted that the Town Manager had presented a very clean budget for the Council to work with and commended Mr. Lawless for his efforts. Mr. Holland made a motion to adopt the 2002-2003 Budget Ordinance. Mr. Adams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

b. Consider Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Lawless gave a summary noting that most of the items in the CIP were replacement items.

Mr. Holland moved to adopt the Capital Improvement Plan. Dr. Ed Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

c. Consider Tax Releases

Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the two tax releases as presented. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

d. Consider Budget Amendment

Mr. Lawless noted that the Finance Officer had prepared an amendment showing the revenue items that had come in under budget; interest on investments and metered water sales. Two items that came in over were tap fees and miscellaneous income. Mr. Lawless also indicated that water treatment salaries came in under budget.

Mr. Holland moved to adopt the budget amendment. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

e. Consider Budget Transfer Requests

- Wastewater Analysis Capital Project

Mr. Lawless reported that the Wastewater Analysis Capital Project was the study that involved the engineering firms of Davis, Martin, Powell and Associates and Hobbs, Upchurch & Associates doing the comprehensive analysis, which gave the Town the necessary information for the design of the Phase I Wastewater Improvements.

There were three items that were under budget: contracted service, contingency and collection system totaling \$6,930. The transfer request was for a hose to drain manholes that are clogged up, thus reducing spills.

Mr. Chamber moved to approve the budget transfer. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Visitors Center Capital Project

Mr. Lawless reported that the contingency fund for the visitor's center remained unspent, the transferred funds could be put into the construction account to cover some of the items that were originally planned for the Center but left out of the specifications

Mr. Holland moved to approve the budget transfer request. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

f. Offer to Donate AA-216

Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the donation of AA-216 from the estate of Margaret M. Boydell for Town and county property tax, estimated to be \$45. Mr. Holland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Staff/Consultant Reports.

a. Town Engineer's Report.

Mike Slusher reported that Smith & Sons Paving had a crew working on Mariah Circle and plans were to move the paving to Grassy Gap Loop Road next week and continue with the storm damage repairs. Mr. Slusher noted that he was working with Mr. Lawless on the Powell Bill map revisions. The environmental assessment for the State Revolving Loan application is still being worked on, this process should be completed the first of July. The Grassy Gap effluent relocation plans will be ready for permitting by the end of June.

Mr. Lawless reported to the Council that Hobbs Upchurch and Associates have the plans for TO 225 completed and the other two are almost complete. The bid package will be designed to solicit prices for 225 with alternate bids for 339 and 340.

b. Public Works Director's Report.

Riley Hatch reported 1) The sign for Town Hall will be completed, hopefully by the end of the week. Works of Wood is doing some repairs on it. 2) The Right of Way crew is

continuing work with Hemlock Circle and Shagbark the most recently completed. 4) Mike Eggers is hauling gravel for stabilization and should have the hauling completed by the 1st of July. 5) High Country Paving has started the work on the walking track at Buckeye Lake. 6) The painting of the road signs to the golf course has been taken care of and the other signs will be painted in the near future. Mr. Holland pointed out that the sign at Village Road and Beech Mountain Parkway was still leaning and asked Mr. Hatch to have his men take care of it. Mr. Chamberlin commended Mr. Hatch on the work that his forces had done.

Mr. Hatch continued with his report noting that they had patches the utility cuts and filled in low places in the asphalt.

Mr. Hatch's report was accepted as submitted.

- c. Town Attorney's Report. Mr. Paletta had no report.
- d. Police Report.

Chief Hefner gave a brief overview noting that there had been a larceny at a building under construction, the individuals were identified and the materials replaced, prosecution was declined. Another larceny was the result of some kids going into a home under construction and doing some damage which the parents paid for, prosecution was declined. The gate at Emerald Mountain was vandalized again, which is an ongoing problem, the matter is under investigation. The report was accepted as submitted.

- e. Town Manager's Report.

Mr. Lawless reported the following: 1) The July and August Council meetings had been rescheduled to the 2nd Monday. The new dates are July 8th and August 12th. 2) The lottery for the Pond Creek wastewater connections resulted in 6 permits, a total of 43 bedrooms. Letters have been sent out to the applicants. The remaining individuals who had request for permits were placed on a waiting list. 3) The Long Range Planning Committee will meet on June 27th at 10:00 a.m. in the Council Chambers. 4) The Chili Cook Off will be held this coming Saturday, June 15th. 5) The Beech Mountain Club contributed \$600 toward putting up the fence around the court at Lake Coffey. 6) Mr. Lawless reported that he and Councilman Adams went to Raleigh to discuss the Town's Occupancy Tax status for the Avery County portion of the Town. Representative Monroe Buchanan pledged to deal with the issue this session. Mr. Lawless indicated that they did meet with other legislatures while in Raleigh. 6) Mr. Lawless and Councilman Adams also met at the Winston Salem regional office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to present the new acting Director, Steve Mauney, with a letter summarizing where the Town is at with regards to the moratorium and noting that the violations for the past three years had been greatly reduced and also outlining the financial commitment the Town has made in repairing the wastewater system. Mr. Lawless asked if some allocations could be granted on a temporary basis until the construction starts and the improvements are put on line. This was received with a somewhat favorable response, but there are no guarantees. DENR will get back to us in a few weeks when they have had an opportunity to review the materials and our status.

- f. The Tax Report and Building Inspections Report were accepted as submitted.

6. *Other Business*

- a. Mr. Lawless was in receipt of a letter requesting that a stop sign be replaced with a yield sign at the intersection of Pine Ridge Road and Beech Mountain Parkway. It was also requested that stop signs be placed on Grassy Gap Loop Road where the golf cart crossings are. Mayor Owen asked that the letter be copied to the other Council members and put on the agenda for the July 8th meeting.
- b. Mr. Hatch asked about placing a mirror at the Pine Ridge Road and Beech Mountain Parkway intersection. Mayor Owen recommended that Chief Hefner and Mr. Hatch look into the matter and report back to the Council on July 8th.

Mr. Hatch also reported that the state was still working on the Parkway across from Frazier's Restaurant.

7. *Adjournment*

Mr. Holland moved for adjournment at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.


Respectfully submitted,

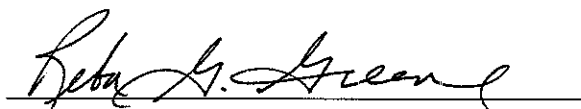
Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

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Minutes approved by Town Council on July 8, 2002.

ATTEST:


Mayor


Town Clerk