

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
May 11, 2004

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 Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Paul Piquet and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Also present were Town Manager Seth Lawless, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Building Inspector Keith Cook, and Town Attorney David Paletta. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation – Charlie Burleson opened the meeting with prayer.

Pledge of Allegiance - All present joined in the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

1. Adoption of Agenda – Dr. Waligroski moved to approve the Agenda with two additions under #5 Other: A presentation by Andy Porter and a request from a property owner on Ski Loft Road. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

2. Consent Agenda -- Minutes of April 13th Regular Meeting. Mr. Piquet moved to accept the minutes of April 13th as presented. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. New Business

A. Chamber of Commerce Request for New Sign – Mr. Jim Brooks, representing the Chamber of Commerce addressed the Council with a proposal for a new Town sign. The proposed sign had an LED read out showing the time, temperature and events in 6" high letters. Cost for the proposed sign was \$16,373.00, with the Authority, the Town and the Chamber to share in the expense.

Mayor Owen expressed his disapproval for the expense involved and the type of sign that was proposed. Mayor Owen also noted that the LED read out fell under the category of signs prohibited by the Town ordinance. Mr. Piquet, Mr. Adams and Dr. Waligroski agreed with Mayor Owen.

Mr. Chamberlin felt that the time and temperature display would be a good idea and he indicated that he was in favor of the proposal.

Ms. Cindy Keller felt the new sign would help keep the businesses, the general public as well as the tourist informed.

Ms. Peggy Coscia, speaking as a resident, felt this type of sign was not appropriate for the Town's image. Ms. Coscia felt it was important to keep people informed, however, there were other ways to do this. Ms. Coscia further indicated that she felt the general public was not aware of the new sign proposal and she further felt the majority would not be in favor of the design.

After much discussion the consensus of the Council was not to move forward with the sign project. Mayor Owen expressed the Council's appreciation for the work that the Chamber of Commerce did for the Town.

B. TDA Request – Mr. Burlison, speaking on behalf of the TDA, addressed the Council with a request for financial assistance with the sledding hill operations as well as the maintenance of flowers planted by the volunteers.

After a brief discussion Mayor Owen indicated that both requests would be discussed at the upcoming budget workshop.

C. Resurfacing Proposal – Mr. Powell reported that the Town had received a bid for the resurfacing of Lake Road, Lakeledge Road and a portion of Beech Mountain Parkway. The bid of \$141,967.00 was 10% higher than the bid from last year, which was considered too high, but taking the increase in petroleum prices into consideration Mr. Powell felt that the Town would not be able to get a more reasonable bid and recommended that the Council move forward with the project. Mr. Piquet moved to accept the bid from Moretz Paving for \$141,967.00. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

Mr. Lawless noted that funds would be included in the 2004/2005 budget for the paving of the lower half of Grassy Gap Loop Road and for Summit Circle. Both projects would be additions to the contract with Moretz Paving.

D. Proposed Budget Amendments – Mr. Lawless gave a brief overview of the four budget amendments. The first amendment was to transfer monies from the General Fund to the Indoor Recreation Center, to purchase more trail maps, and to fund the balance of the resurfacing project. The second is to transfer loan-processing fees into the Recreation Center project. Number three deals with the extra income received from availability fees in the capital reserve. The last amendment is to transfer monies for the geo-technical testing at the Indoor Recreation Center building site. Mr. Chamberlin moved to adopt all four budget amendments. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. Request for Funding Summer Intern – Mr. Lawless informed the Council that the Town had a balance of \$1,500 left in the account for an intern. An additional \$3,000 would allow an intern to work for 12 weeks. Mr. Jeremiah West has applied for an internship and Mr. Lawless was proposing that he be hired and work with Mr. Cook on code enforcement and updating the zoning map among other duties. The Council unanimously agreed to Mr. Lawless' proposal. Mr. Lawless indicated that Mr. West could start work on May 24th.

4. Staff/Consultant Reports

A. Town Engineer's Report – Mr Powell reported: 1) The contract documents for the resurfacing projects would be prepared. 2) The Grassy Gap project was almost completed, the back-up generator still needs to be tested. 3) Mike Slusher is finalizing the Pond Creek project.

Mr Chamberlin asked if the paving project could be put on hold to allow for the installation of valves for the fire hydrants on Beech Mountain Pkwy. The process to install valves would require the entire water line to be turned off. Mr Hatch responded that he did not know if there was enough time to get that prior to the paving, the Spruce Hollow tank had not been put back in operation and it would have to be used if that line was turned off on the Parkway.

After further discussion Mayor Owen asked that Mr Hatch and Mr Powell check into the possibility of having valves for the fire hydrants installed prior to the paving on Beech Mtn. Pkwy.

B. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch reported: 1) The Department is putting gravel on Rhododendron, Poplar and Oak Road. Eggers Construction will be hauling the gravel on a 'can do' basis. 2) The Right of Way crew was clearing a sewer maintenance easement for an outfall line. 3) Carver Tank Painting will be returning to do some touch up painting to the Spruce Hollow Holding Tank. The tank should be back in operation in two weeks. Mr Hatch's report was accepted as submitted.

C. Town Attorney's Report – Mr Paletta had no report.

D. Police Report – Chief Hefner reviewed the monthly Police Department Activity Report and noting that the Town would be participating in the 'Click it or Ticket' program from May 24th through June 7th. Chief Hefner's report is on file with the Town Clerk.

E. Town Manager's Report – Mr Lawless reported; 1) He had attended a workshop on the NC DOT Enhancement Funds Program, and he didn't think that the Town had a project that would qualify, 2) The contractors for the Recreation Center were making progress and that progress meetings would be held the first Wednesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. on the job site. 3) S & ME out of Asheville were the low bidder for the geo-technical testing at the Recreation Center construction site. 4) Spring-Clean up is scheduled for Saturday, May 15th. 5) Mr Coakley, Beech Place Condominiums, would be requesting the Town's permission to deviate in the placement of building #1. Mr Coakley anticipated having the revised site plan to the Council by May 25th, the date of the budget presentation. 6) Town Hall Day is June 9th in Raleigh; Mr Lawless reminded the Council that it was good to have representation from the Town, even though no bills for the Town were pending. 7) The Chamber was asking for assistance in getting a survey out to visitors on the mountain, copies can be obtained from the Town Hall. 8) The Watauga County Board of Commissioners granted the Town's request for a grant, the grant in the amount of \$10,000 would be used to buy exercise equipment for the new Recreation Center.

F. Tax Collection Report – On file with the Town Clerk.

G. Building Inspections Report – On file with the Town Clerk.

5. Other Business –

A. Andy Porter – Mr. Porter, speaking on behalf of Emerald Mountain, addressed the Council with a request for water service for 4 more lots off of Emerald Court Lane, approximately 500' of line.

Mr. Powell indicated that the 4" line would have to be changed to a 6" line with a 2" blow-off valve and a 6 x 6 Tee. This would allow for a fire hydrant at the intersection and a valve to flush out the line.

After further discussion Mayor Owen indicated that he was not in favor of the Town contributing 25% for the installation of the 6" water line. The Council was in agreement for the installation of the water line and agreed to consider refunding a portion of the taps made during construction as new homes were connected to the utility.

B. Ski Loft Road – This item was deleted from the Agenda.


6. Adjournment – Upon a motion by Dr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Piquet the meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Minutes approved by Town Council on 6-8, 2004



Mayor

ATTEST:



Town Clerk

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
May 25, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rick Owen called the Special Meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Town Hall. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Paul Piquet and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Town Manager Seth Lawless, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Building Inspector Keith Cook and intern Jeremiah West were also present.

1. *Beech Place Condominiums* – Mr. Powell presented the Council with a proposal to revise the location of one of the condominium buildings Mr. Joe Coakley was building on the property behind the Works of Wood. Mr. Powell noted that a 25° shift in the building would provide a better view and the additional property purchased adjoining the development would have a larger green space area.

Mr. Chamberlin made a motion to approve the change as submitted. Mr. Adams seconded the motion. Mayor Owen asked for further discussion to discuss the vinyl siding. Mr. Chamberlin indicated that the original proposal had siding that had the cedar look, which Mr. Piquet also recalled. Mr. Coakley said that the siding issue was not one he had been involved with since he had taken over the project from Mr. Tom Ziol. Mr. Coakley further indicated that the type of siding was not available from Crest Homes of North Carolina, the company he was dealing with. Mr. Coakley assured the Council that he was working very hard to make sure the site had nice landscaping and he had made upgrades to the entrances of the buildings by adding large porches. Mr. Piquet asked when the building would be completed to which Mr. Coakley indicated that he planned on finishing one per month. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Adams indicated that the Town did not have the right to ask Mr. Coakley to change the siding that was on the building he was putting up because the Town did not specify siding in the contract between the Town and Mr. Coakley. Mr. Chamberlin noted that the stairs that Mr. Coakley was putting on the front of the building would be a nice addition.

2. *Town Hall Landscaping Bids* - Mr. Lawless noted that he had received 2 estimates on landscaping around Town Hall and the Visitors Center. Mr. Piquet indicated that he felt the estimates were too expensive and the Council agreed that they should decide on an amount they want to spend before making any decisions. After further discussion Mayor Owen tabled the matter for future discussion.

3. *Budget Presentation* - Mr. Lawless presented the Council with the proposed 2004-2005 fiscal year budget for the Town. Mr. Lawless noted the proposed budget as follows: General Funds \$2,889,680, Water and Sewer \$1,103,290 (this reflects a 2% increase in water and sewer charges), Sanitation \$353,290 and the E-911 fund is \$68,320. Mr. Lawless also noted that the budget proposed a 1.5% cost of living pay increase for Town employees.

Mr. Lawless discussed the other information in the budget packet, including the capital improvement plan. Two additional handouts were discussed, detailing the costs of water line replacement on Hornbeam and Pond Creek Roads, as well as the cost of purchasing previously identified real property. These expenditure items are not included the proposed budget.

Mayor Owen expressed the Council's appreciation for the staff's effort in compiling the proposed budget.

ADJOURN

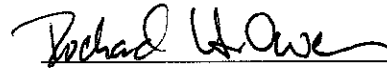
There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m. Mayor Owen reminded the Council that a workshop is scheduled for Tuesday, June 1st at 4:00 p.m. and a public hearing on the budget will be held on June 8th.

Respectfully submitted,

Reba G. Greene
Town Clerk

Minutes approved by Town Council on 6-8, 2004.

ATTEST:



Mayor



Town Clerk