

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
August 9, 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 Council Chambers of 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, Intern Jeremiah West, Building Inspector Keith Cook, Town Engineer Ed Powell and Town Attorney David Paletta. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation – Charlie Bureson opened the meeting with 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 – Minutes of July 12th Regular –Mr. Chamberlin moved to accept the minutes of July 12th meeting as amended. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Special Presentation – Comparative Pay Study – Jeremiah West- Mr. West presented the Council with the recently completed pay study comparing the towns of Banner Elk, Blowing Rock, Boone, Seven Devils, Sugar Mountain and Avery and Watauga Counties to the pay scale of Beech Mountain. Mr. West indicated that the greatest disparity was in the pay of the Police Department. The administrative portion of the Town was similar to the Town of Blowing Rock. Mr. Chamberlin asked if the pay study included comparison of benefits as part of the total comparison. Mr. West responded that benefits were not part of the study. Mr. Chamberlin then suggested that a true picture of total compensation comparison would be more meaningful if the benefits were included along with pay. Mr. Piquet asked about the changes in grades of pay that Chief Hefner had proposed at the budget hearing to which Mr. Lawless indicated that pay grade changes would effect more than just the police department, a comprehensive review would have to be done. After a brief discussion the Council asked if Mr. Lawless and the finance officer could look into the matter and give an update at the next council meeting.

4. New Business -

A Tax Matters – Settlements

- 1. Town of Beech Mountain***
- 2. Avery County (Vehicles)***
- 3. Watauga County (Vehicles)***

After a brief discussion, Mr. Chamberlin made a motion of accept the Town of Beech Mountain

annual tax settlement as well as the Avery and Watauga County vehicle tax settlements. Dr Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed without dissent.

B. Consider Resolution 04-08-01 – Surplus Property- Mr. Lawless gave a brief overview of the auction procedure using the Gov Deals web site to sell surplus government property. Chief Hefner noted that the Town would have to pay a commission of 7½ % on any item sold from the web site. Mr. Chamberlin moved to pass Resolution 04-08-01. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion. Mr. Adams asked if this was the only way to bid on a vehicle. After further discussion Mr. Piquet withdrew his second to the motion and Mr. Chamberlin withdrew his motion. The Council tabled the resolution until the next meeting giving Chief Hefner the opportunity to further investigate the unanswered questions.

C. Consider Resolution 04-08-02 – Support of Tax Increment Financing – Mr. Lawless reported on the Resolution in Support of Amendment One: Self-Financing Bonds. A proposed constitutional amendment will be voted on in November. The proposed amendment permits a new type of financing for local governments. The new method, self financing bonds, allows a local government to pledge the increase in tax base that results from new development as collateral for a loan tied to improving the infrastructure necessary for the development. Mr. Piquet moved to adopt Resolution 04-08-02. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Proposed Change Orders 1 & 2 – Moretz Paving – Mr. Powell indicated that change order #1 was to add Grassy Gap Loop Road and change order #2 would add Summit Circle to the current paving contract with Moretz Paving. Mr. Piquet moved to accept the change orders as presented. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

5. Staff/Consultant Reports

A. Town Engineer's Report – 1) Mr. Powell reported that a pre-construction meeting had been held with Chris Ryder Construction and the work was scheduled to start this week. 2) Moretz Paving has started their project, the manholes and valve boxes have been adjusted and paving can commence. 3) The 201 Amendment has been presented in Raleigh and Mr. Powell reported that he had met with Mr. Bobby Blowe, who is the Chief of Construction grants and loans. Mr. Blowe indicated that the money has been set aside for the Town's project.

B. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch reported: 1) Moretz Paving is working on the Town project and the plan is to start paving Beech Mountain Parkway at the Pine Ridge Road intersection and continue on to Village Road; the crew would then go to Lake Road. Mr. Hatch indicated that Lake Road would require a detour because of all the traffic going to the recreation area. Grassy Gap Loop Road and the Summit Circle will follow. 2) The inflow and infiltration crew will be working on Arrowhead and Hollowtree Roads. 3) The right of way crew will be in the Wild Daisy Lane area working toward Locust Ridge Road. Mr. Hatch's report was accepted as submitted.

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

D. Police Report – Chief Heffner gave a brief review of the report noting that the vandalism had turned out to be a domestic dispute. Chief Heffner also noted that the drug task force was in place and investigations were in progress. The Police report is on file with the Town Clerk.

E. Town Manager's Report - Mr. Lawless reported; 1) Mr. West will finish his internship with the Town on Friday 13th. He has secured a position with the Town of Banner Elk and will start there next week. 2) The Town has started the annual use of ammonia as a disinfectant at the water treatment plant. This is done during the several warmest weeks of the year to prevent THM formation. The water department will switch back to just chlorine in the fall when the temperature drops. 3) The annual audit has begun and the accountants will present their report to the Council in October. 4) The Chamber will hold its monthly meeting tomorrow, Tuesday the 10th at 9:30 in the Town Hall. 5) The annual High Country Council of Governments will hold their annual banquet at Linville Ridge on Friday, September 10th; all the Council members are invited to attend.

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

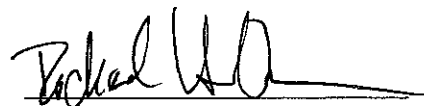
G. Building Inspections Report – On file with the Town Clerk

6. Executive Session – N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (6) - Upon a motion by Mr. Piquet, seconded by Mr. Adams, the Council entered into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. Upon a motion by Dr. Waligroski, seconded by Mr. Chamberlin, Executive Session adjourned at 7:23 p.m. No action was taken in Executive Session.

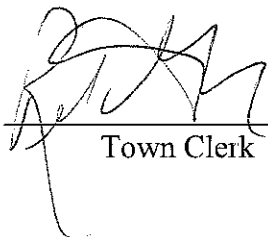
7. Other Business - Mr. Chamberlin asked about the maintenance of the split rail fencing along the Parkway. The Council discussed whether all the fencing was to be Town maintained or whether some of it was privately owned. Dr. Waligroski indicated that he would like to have the owners/maintenance information for all the fencing in the residential areas of the Town.

8. Adjournment - There being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Piquet. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on 9-14, 2004.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk