

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
November 8, 2005

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 Council Chambers. Other Council Members present were Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Paul Piquet and Dr. Ed Waligroski. Also present were Interim Town Manager Joe Perry, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Town Engineer Ed Powell, Finance Officer Sally Rominger, Building Inspector Keith Cook, Indoor Recreation Director Rosemary Burnett and Town Attorney David Paletta. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

Invocation – Jay Hefner opened the meeting with a prayer.

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

1. Adoption of Agenda – The Agenda was adopted with the removal of 5 a. Sewer Line Request being replaced by a discussion on the Memorial Park and the addition of the Introduction of Town Manager as item 2.

2. Introduction – Town Manager – Mayor Owen introduced Mr. Michael Boaz to the audience noting that the Council had unanimously selected Mr. Boaz for the position.

3. Consent Agenda – Minutes of October 12, 2005 Regular Meeting – Mr. Paletta made additions to 5. A. Zoning Ordinance Change, R2 Zoned Areas, Section 1002.15. Mr. Piquet moved to adopt the minutes of the October 12th Regular Meeting as amended. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Audit Presentation – Bryce Holder, CPA, PA – Mr. Bryce Holder reported to the Council and audience that the Town's finances were in good shape, the Finance Officer was very efficient and the tax collection rate was excellent. Mr. Holder's report was accepted as submitted.

5. Public Comment –

No public comments were made.

6. Old Business –

A. Memorial Park – Paul Piquet – Mr. Piquet reported that the Town had been unable to secure LG-112, 530 Pinnacle Ridge Road, and asked that the Council consider moving forward with the project. After a brief discussion Mr. Adams made a motion to have lots LG 108, LG 109, LG 110, LG 111, LG 113, LG 114, LG 115 and the unidentified lot across from LG 111 surveyed. Dr. Waligroski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Mr. Paletta indicated that he was in the process of securing the non-numbered lot with no known owner for the Town.

7. New Business –

A. Budget Amendment – Water & Sewer Fund – Mayor Owen reported that the amendment was related to the utility billing clerk position and asked that the matter be discussed in Executive Session to which all the Council members agreed.

B. Budget Amendment – General Fund – Mayor Owen indicated that the general fund budget amendment was a transfer to the Indoor Recreation Capital Project and to appropriate funds for telephones in the recreation department in the general fund. Mr. Piquet moved to approve the Budget Amendment for \$46,780. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

C. Budget Amendment – Indoor Recreation Center – Mayor Owen explained that the Budget Amendment was to cover increased expenses in the line items for professional fees, supplies and materials, construction contract, construction testing and telephone package and wiring for the Recreation Center. Mayor Owen noted that the contingency in the project budget had been reduced from \$33,500 to \$13,500. Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the budget amendment for \$54,120. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Mountain Electric Contract – Recreation Center – Mayor Owen noted that the Power Contract Agreement between Mountain Electric Cooperative, Inc., and the Town was for service at the Recreation Center, identified as location #7290207001. Mayor Owen also noted that it was estimated that the electric bill would be over \$1,000 per month, the contract indicated a minimum monthly amount of \$984.38 per month. Mayor Owen indicated that it was a standard contract required by all commercial buildings. After a brief discussion Mr. Chamberlin moved to approve the contract. Mr. Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

8. Staff/Consultant Reports

A. Town Engineer's Report – Ed Powell – Mr. Powell reported that the state was in the final stages of the loan approval for the Pond Creek Water Treatment plant upgrades and the authorization to construct should be received shortly. Mr. Powell indicated that Lakeview Construction, Inc. was scheduled to begin resurfacing the paved portion of Hornbeam Road this week and all the resurfacing should be completed by Thanksgiving. The report was accepted as submitted.

B. Public Works Director's Report – Riley Hatch – Mr. Hatch reported: a) The Town had received two new trucks, one would be for his use and the other was reserved for the water plant. The department had also received a new garbage truck today, which would be put into service as soon as possible. b) Mr. Hatch noted that he was still trying to get a demo leaf vacuum before ordering one. c) Mr. Hatch reported that the straw bails and snow fence were in place on the sledding hill. Mayor Owen asked that some dirt be placed in the planter by the front door of Town Hall. Mr. Randy Corn, 360 Locust Ridge Road, asked that the washed out areas of his road be repaired. Mr. Hatch responded that he would attend to both request.

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

D. Chief of Police's Report – Jay Hefner – Chief Hefner reported that the department had investigated one burglary, noting that an individual had entered a house while the owner was showering, no items were taken. The individual had also opened the owner's car door, and again, no items were taken. There were no clues in the incident. Chief Hefner indicated that the department had not had a lot of activity for the month.

E. Interim Town Manager's Report – Joe Perry – Mr. Perry reported: a) The High Country Municipal Association will be meeting on November 17th at 6:00 p.m. b) Mr. Perry reported that the Parks Committee had asked that he report to the Council the shortfall of funds for the safety officers to work the sledding hill, noting that the estimated amount would be an additional \$6,000. Mayor Owen indicated that he was pleased that the Parks Committee had initiated control of the sledding hill and recommended that the T.D.A. and Chamber of Commerce assist in the safety officer's salaries. Mr. Reub Mooradian, Chairman of the Parks Committee, responded that both the T.D.A. and Chamber of Commerce indicated that they did not have additional funds for the request. Mr. Mooradian continued that the sledding hill was a major asset to the Town and very visible. Ms. Peggy Coscia, Chamber Office Manager, noted that the Chamber paid for employees to work extra hours in the Visitors Center to allow sledders access to a building and restrooms in the evenings and during the busy holiday times. Ms. Coscia further indicated that she had been contacted by a magazine wishing to do a story on the sledding hill. Mrs. Rominger, Finance Officer, indicated that the Town did assume liability by paying the contract labor and the workers compensation audit resulted in the Town having to pay a premium for the safety officers. Mr. Hatch noted that the Town also paid the salary for one full time employee who is in charge of the sledding hill in the winter time. Mr. Mooradian indicated that the sledding hill was part of the Town's recreation system like the hiking trail and therefore should assume some of the responsibility. c) Mr. Perry noted that the Parks Committee had expressed an interest in the Town purchasing the property owned by the Accardi's, located behind the Brick Oven, to which Mayor Owen noted that the same Council had been approached with the idea and that they had turned down the prospect of going into further debt. Mr. Piquet and Mr. Chamberlin indicated that they were interested in the idea. Mayor Owen asked that Mr. Perry check into the availability of the property in question.

F. Building Inspection Report – Keith Cook – The report is on file with the Town Clerk.

G. Recreation Center Director – Rosemary Burnett – Ms. Coscia asked when the new Recreation Center was scheduled to open to which Mayor Owen responded that it would probably be around the Christmas holidays. Ms. Burnett noted that, depending on the floor installation, the Indoor Recreation Committee hoped to give tours at Thanksgiving.

9. Other Business –

Mayor Owen noted that there was no other business to discuss and asked for a recess before entering into Executive Session.

10. Executive Session – NCGS 143-318.11(5), (6). Personnel Matter - Upon a motion by Mr. Piquet, seconded by Mr. Chamberlin the Council entered into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. under NCGS 143-318.11 (5), (6) to discuss a personnel matter. Upon a motion by Mr. Chamberlin, seconded by Mr. Piquet the Council came out of Executive Session at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. Piquet moved to approve the Water and Sewer Fund Budget Amendment to amend the pay schedule for the utility billing position from grade 8 to 14, a \$4,970 increase. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

11. Adjourn – Having no other business to discuss the Council adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Piquet at 7:40 p.m. Mr. Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on 12/13, 2005.


Mayor

ATTEST:


Town Clerk