

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Thursday, March 2, 2017

On March 2, 2017, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Shannon Peterson, and Ron Powell present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Jon England, Chad Fox, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Chuck Carlson, Lucy Doll, David Grindstaff (Yancey Common Times), Rhonda Higgins, Mike Hoskins, Ginger Johnson, Laura Maher, Wanda Proffitt, Woody Ryan, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of March, 2017.

- **Public Comment** –
 - a. Lucy Doll spoke about a program *“You’re Never Too Old to Raise a Little Hell,”* and distributed pea seeds.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the agenda. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. Regular meeting held January 5, 2017
 - b. Special meeting held January 17, 2017

Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 5, 2017 as written. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Shannon Peterson noted that the minutes of the special meeting held on January 17, 2017 failed to record the action taken on a motion to charge inside town tap and user fees for a proposed development. It was agreed that the minutes would be amended to reflect the action taken and brought back to Council for consideration. Mr. Peterson said he would be discussing an expansion of the motion during the Public Works report at this meeting.

- **Planning Board Report** – In the absence of Harrison Tyner, Planning Board Chair, Jon England reported:
 - a. Minutes from the Special Planning Board meeting held on February 22, 2017 were available for review.
 - b. The Planning Board is continuing its work on the subdivision ordinance, which will be presented for Council review in the near future.
- **Graham Children’s Health Services** - Schell McCall spoke about the successful summer events that were held on the square last summer. She shared a draft of a proposed schedule for the upcoming summer, and asked Council to consider sponsoring these events again. Theresa Coletta moved to cosponsor Graham Children’s summertime events again this year. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Ms. McCall shared information about an upcoming event to celebrate 20 years of Graham Children’s Health Services in our community.

- **Town Square Events** – Council considered a list of events that will be held on the Town Square this year, many of which were cosponsored by the Town. Council heard about plans for community involvement during the partial solar eclipse that will occur in August. Judy Buchanan moved to cosponsor all previous events held on the Square along with the solar eclipse event. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Ron Powell mentioned that local churches are planning a community Easter sunrise service on the square, and he has asked organizers to connect with staff at the Town Hall to coordinate the calendar.

- **Mayor's Administrative Report**

- a. Water/Sewer grant update – Council learned that the Mayor and Ronnie Tipton are currently gathering information for a second round of no-match funding of water/sewer projects.
- b. There will be a Council Work Session March 21, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. to finalize the *Pay and Position Classification Plan* that will assign salary ranges to positions.
- c. HB 64/SB 94 – this proposed legislation could affect municipal elections by cycling them with regular political elections. Some municipalities favor the legislation as a cost saving measure. The League of Municipalities is compiling information that will be available in April. The Mayor said she has attempted to contact Ralph Hise about the matter, and plans to get in touch with Michele Presnell.

- **Department Updates:**

- a. Administration

- 1. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated February 27, 2017 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway.
- 2. Finance Issues:
 - a) The Budget vs. Actual dated February 27, 2017 was furnished to Council.
 - b) Council considered a Resolution to close out the capital project budget for the Hosiery Mill project. Judy Buchanan moved to approve the aforesaid Resolution. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.
 - c) Council agreed that the *Employee Earnings History* report should be presented to Council quarterly rather than monthly.

- b. Fire Department - Chief Niles Howell reported:

- 1. Status of Property:
 - a) The barn on the property is 80% removed.
 - b) Chief Howell has been in contact with the architect on the project, and has learned that the project is now estimated to cost over \$2 million now that the building has expanded from 7,000 square feet to 11,000 square feet to accommodate a ladder truck, but there are options, including scaling the building back to 9,000 square feet and not housing a ladder truck. The USDA will be asked to amortize the loan to see if payments are affordable.
 - c) Fundraising Efforts – Local donations to date are \$25,000. The *Battle of the Blues* fundraiser is this coming weekend.
- 2. Operations – Council reviewed the Fire Department's Monthly Update.

- c. Police Department - Chief Brian Buchanan reported:

- 1. Council reviewed the department's activity log.

2. In-service training is scheduled at the Town Center.
 3. Enforcement on the bypass is being emphasized.
- d. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Ronnie Tipton reported:
1. An activity log was available for review.
 2. The bid opening for the Micaville Water Line Extension was held today. Only one contractor showed up. McGill will be re-advertising for bids since a minimum of three bids are required.
 3. The GDS District Manager has proposed to supply a free roll-out recycle container for every resident; pickup would be every two weeks. Ron Powell moved to accept the proposal. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.
 4. A real estate agent representing Serota Mars Hill, LLC has made contact, asking to be on the work session agenda this month to discuss the Comet Lane (Riverside Trailer Park) project. An active board member of Serota Mars Hill is Jack Shepard.
 5. The town is getting back into the AMR program. It is hoped that we will have all meters that are currently in stock installed by budget year-end. We plan to budget next year to purchase enough to complete another route.
- e. Town Center - Facility Manager Chad Fox provided a brief update of events scheduled for the upcoming month, reporting the schedule includes 11 live music shows. He noted that the wedding expo was a great success.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

a. Mayor Theresa Coletta

1. Farmers' Market Update – The Mayor advised this will probably be the last summer for the farmers in the Briggs parking lot as they are hoping to move next season to the TRACTOR location.
2. Elevator Grant Update – After getting letters of support from several non-profits that work with handicapped individuals, the grant application was finally submitted. The project has expanded to include a handicap-accessible bathroom facility on the ground floor of the town hall.

▪ **Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits**


a. Yancey County Economic Development Commission - EDC Director Wanda Proffitt reported:

1. Altec – The plant is moving forward and growing. They have been asked to arrange a time we could visit the new facility.
2. Burnsville Business Park – Winterstar has received an offer to purchase the building. Because the purpose for the building is to create jobs, it was decided the building is not for sale at this time.
3. Update on 19E Corridor through Burnsville – Jeff Lackey (D.O.T.) will discuss the preliminary plans for landscape, etc. next week.
4. A report from Sanford Holshouser is expected soon.
5. Council indicated interest in another strategic planning meeting with the County and the EDC, which Mrs. Proffitt agreed to coordinate.
6. There has been talk about expanding the *Farm to Table* dinner to 200 people. The event will be held the last Sunday in August.

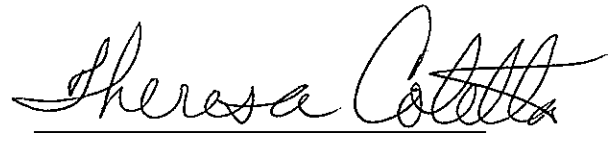
b. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available for review.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of April.

There being no further business, Ron Powell moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Shannon Peterson and carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor