

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 1, 2017

On June 1, 2017, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Shannon Peterson, and Ron Powell present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Mayor Theresa Coletta was absent due to illness. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton; town attorney Heather Hockaday, and visitors Chuck Carlson, Lucy Doll, Joe Giardina, David Grindstaff (Yancey Common Times), Eric Klein, Jamie McMahan, Jim Parlier, Wanda Proffitt, Ron Rollette, Harrison Tyner, and others. Mayor protem Judy Buchanan, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of June, 2017.

- **Public Comment** – The following individuals spoke:
 - a. Jim Parlier – encouraged Council support of the American Anti-Corruption Act
 - b. Eric Klein – a town resident who urged Council to adopt the Resolution in Support of the American Anti-Corruption Act
 - c. Joe Giardina – a town resident who urged Council to adopt the Resolution in Support of the American Anti-Corruption Act and thanked the town for its quick response to tree removal on Sunday morning after the storm the night before
 - d. Ron Rollette – spoke about his concerns over the closing of labor and delivery services at Blue Ridge Hospital in Spruce Pine. He warned that this move will eventually lead to the closing of the hospital, which will impact a significant number of people in Yancey County who are employed by the hospital, and further impact schools, merchants, etc. He plans to write letters opposing this move to newspapers in Mitchell, Yancey and Avery Counties, obtain signatures on a Petition from people in all three counties, and encouraged Council to comment in some way.

- **Adoption of Agenda** – The Mayor protem noted the agenda failed to call for a work session on June 13th. Judy Buchanan moved to amend the agenda to include a work session on June 13th and adopt the agenda as revised. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 - a. Regular meeting held May 2, 2017
 - b. Closed session held May 2, 2017
 - c. Special meeting held May 8 2017
 - d. Closed session held May 8, 2017
 - e. Special meeting held May 16, 2017
 - f. Closed session held May 16, 2017
 - g. Special meeting held May 22, 2017

- Ron Powell moved to adopt the minutes of the aforesaid meetings. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Planning Board Report** – Harrison Tyner, Chair
 - a. Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held on May 23, 2017 were available for review.
 - b. Council heard that the Planning Board just met and approved sidewalk dining for Rad Dawgz, and would probably not meet in June, July or August unless something is presented to the

Planning Board for consideration. Planning is awaiting budget approval in order to move forward with work on the subdivision ordinance.

- **Resolution in Support of the American Anti-Corruption Act** – Deana Blanchard presented information on the American Anti-Corruption Act and asked Council to consider a Resolution in support of the Act. Because Council did not have prior access to much of the information that was available, Ron Powell moved to table consideration of the Resolution until the Council meeting that will be held on June 26th. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Mayor's Administrative Report**
 - a. Resolution for beautification of Gateways – A Resolution *Supporting Beautification Enhancements along US Highway 19E Corridor through Yancey County* was available for review. Ron Powell moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. The motion was seconded by Shannon Peterson and carried.
 - b. Proclamation "*National Nursing Home Month*" was available for review. Ron Powell moved to adopt the aforesaid Proclamation. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.
 - c. There will be a Council Work Session on June 13th at 3:00 p.m. at the Burnsville Town Center.
 - d. On June 26, 2017, a special meeting will be held to conduct regular business for the month of July, 2017, and a budget hearing and a public hearing to allow public input on an allocation to non-profit agencies for the purpose of increasing business prospects for the Town of Burnsville will be held during the meeting.
 - e. Approval of Consulting Agreement for economic development project – Attorney Heather Hockaday reported that she has reviewed the aforesaid Consulting Agreement and approves of the document as to form. Ron Powell moved to approve the agreement as presented and authorize the mayor or mayor pro tem and finance officer to execute the document when it has been pre-audited. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Department Updates:**
 - a. Administration – Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
 - 1. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated May 26, 2017 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway.
 - 2. Certificate of Sufficiency Regarding Petition for Voluntary Annexation (Winter Star Co.) – The Town Clerk reported that the investigation on the aforesaid Petition is incomplete at this time.
 - 3. Finance Issues:
 - a) The Budget vs. Actual dated May 26, 2017 was furnished to Council.

 - b. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell
 - 1. Status of Property – No change in status in the past month.
 - 2. Department Request for Fire Tax Increase - Fire Chief Niles Howell advised that he approached the County Commissioners for a tax increase in the rural district of 1.5 cents, which would result in increased revenues of approximately \$39,000. County Planner Jamie McMahan reported that the County did approve the increase contingent on the Town increasing taxes proportionately.
 - 3. Operations:
 - a) Council reviewed the Fire Department's Monthly Update.
 - b) Chief Howell reported on status of the ladder truck, mentioning that he has ordered items necessary to put the truck in service.

- c. Police Department - Chief Brian Buchanan reported:
 1. Council reviewed the department's activity log.
 2. Jake brakes (engine-assisted braking) – Chief Buchanan reported that he and Heather Hockaday are working on an ordinance which he hopes to have available for consideration at the June 26th meeting. He has contacted the Department of Transportation regarding signage.
 3. An ordinance for street closure for the *Sizzlin' Summer Series Bicycle Event* was considered. It was noted that the ordinance would have to be amended to reference PATH as the sponsoring agency. Ron Powell moved to adopt the ordinance contingent upon the aforesaid amendment. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- d. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Ronnie Tipton reported:
 1. An activity log was available for review.
 2. The bid was awarded to Stillwell Enterprises for the Micaville Water Line. Work will start June 5th, and substantial completion should occur on October 3rd. Final completion is scheduled for November 2nd, but we may actually have water in the school before school resumes. The grant on this project is being administered by the High Country COG.
 3. The Public Works Director thanked the Fire Department for all their work in the early Sunday morning hours helping to clear the streets after the storm in the night.
 4. Other ongoing projects include the Peterson Trailer Park, narrowing down projects for the next CDBG funding, and infrastructure for the new elementary school at Cane River. The East Yancey Sewer District now has one customer, and the plant is operating and functioning.
 5. The STIP application for sidewalks needs to be submitted soon, but we don't have a cost estimate yet from McGill.

- e. Town Center - Facility Manager Chad Fox provided a brief update of events scheduled for the upcoming month. He reported that there have been 34 rentals in the past month. Upcoming events include a concert by a Grammy nominated bluegrass singer, a rock show for kids, and Riddlefest.

- **Council Members' Reports**

- a. Judy Buchanan reported that the town has received a Certificate of Appreciation for its support during the recent *Hero Day* event.

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

- a. Yancey County Economic Development Commission –
 1. Minutes were available for review.
 2. EDC Director Wanda Proffitt thanked the Town Council for adopting the Gateway Resolution.
 3. Biltmore chefs will be preparing the meal for the *Farm to Fork* event.
 4. There will be a meeting at the Town Center to hear the Sanford Holshouser report on the *Information Technology Focused Strategic Economic Development Plan* on Monday, June 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.
- b. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available for review.

- **Other** – Judy Buchanan moved to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(4) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(5). Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Council reconvened in open session. No action taken as a result of the closed session.


Ron Powell moved to amend the agenda to discuss the retirement celebration being planned for EDC Director Wanda Proffitt. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. It was generally agreed that the town would contribute the rental of the Town Center and another \$200 for food from Pig & Grits.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next Town Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 26, 2017 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of July.

There being no further business, Shannon Peterson moved to adjourn. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor