

TOWN OF BURNSVILLE  
Special Meeting  
May 20, 2014

On May 20, 2014, the Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Ron Powell, and Bill Wheeler present, held a special meeting at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Anthony Hensley, Jeanne Martin and George Nero. The Mayor called the meeting to order, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to meet with several department heads to review financial activity for the current fiscal year and consider any and all issues deemed appropriate.

Council reviewed the proposed Police Department budget. The Police Chief explained the mechanics of his department's schedules and told Council that he had 8 full time officers and reserves that are interested in a long-term relationship with the Town of Burnsville. There was a general discussion about business complaints and responses, and the new directive to be extremely vigilant on traffic violations in the downtown district.

Bill Wheeler made a motion for a short recess, which met unanimous approval.

Council began a review of other departmental budget requests in the general fund:

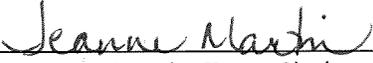
- It was generally agreed that the budget should include sidewalk projects surrounding the Town Hall building and up North Main Street.
- In a discussion about the Fire Department's budget, there were concerns that there is a lack of clear communication relating to the department's long-range plans. There was general agreement that a time should be set aside for a meeting with Council and the Fire Department to discuss future planning. Meanwhile, an expenditure of \$300,000 that is in the proposed budget for *Capital Outlay/Prop* (10-530-7401) will be pending until Council and the FD meet for planning purposes.

Ruth Banks made a motion for George Nero to explore with the Fire Department the possible meeting dates of Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. or Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6 p.m. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

- Council was advised that privilege licenses are currently under legislative review in Raleigh, and depending on the outcome, the General Fund revenues could be negatively impacted by as much as \$18,000. It was agreed to leave budgeted revenues in place for the time being, and furnish Council with updates as they occur.
- With regard to ad valorem tax revenues, Council was told that a policy is being developed for the process of collecting delinquent taxes, and it will be brought to Council for approval before implementation.
- As to the Burnsville Town Center, Chad Fox will assume the manager's duties as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. It is planned to solicit \$12,000 from Ingles to support community promotions. Half of funds collected will supplement the Town Center's revenues/expenditures, and the remaining will be allocated for town-sponsored events on the square.

- Community promotions:
  - ... The request for a free weekend for the Parkway Playhouse at the Town Center will not be considered, although it is likely the funding request will be approved;
  - ... The amount allocated for parking on property owned by the Briggs Estate will remain as it is in the proposed budget;
  - ... It was noted that the amount given last year for the Police Department was over and above the PD budget. Chief Buchanan said the amount covers weekend foot patrol.
  - ... It was noted that the town's contribution to the Fire Department should be \$105,000, but building rental and administrative costs are not currently factored in the town's contribution, and should be.
  - ... A salary increase to \$15/hour for the full time firefighter has been requested. It was agreed that any increase should be taken from the part time labor line in the proposed budget, rather than increasing the bottom line. The hourly figure should be reported to Leslie Crowder for payroll purposes.
  
- Water/Sewer:
  - ... Council agreed it is important to keep up with the Capital Improvement Plan.
  - ... Council discussed the status of the Micaville water line and was told that an ARC reapplication has been accepted for review. The Rural Center is another funding possibility. The funding shortfall needs to be communicated to Yancey County and the Board of Education for their consideration and assistance.
  
- General Issues:
  - ... Health insurance coverage is good and the cost is manageable.
  - ... East Yancey Sewer District is not currently in the budget; a new department will be created when appropriate.
  - ... Council agreed to waive their raise this year.
  - ... A 2 percent increase for employees will be added to the budget.

There being no further business, Judy Buchanan made a motion to adjourn. Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

  
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Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk

  
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Theresa Coletta, Mayor