

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Thursday, December 3, 2015

On December 3, 2015, the 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 staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Anthony Hensley, Niles Howell and Jeanne Martin; Town Attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Denise Cook, Denise Dickens, Lucy Doll, former Mayor David Grindstaff, David Grindstaff, (Yancey Common Times), Jody Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Jack Mackie, Wanda Proffitt, Norman Rabek, Woody Ryan, Nancy Trovillian, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of December, 2015.

- Public Comment
 - a. Lucy Doll gave a report on a play that was held at the Town Center, “The Christmas that Almost Wasn’t.” The play was a fund raiser for the Burnsville Fire Department. Ms. Doll displayed a youth firefighter uniform that has been donated to raise additional funds for the department.
- Adoption of Agenda – Ron Powell moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Ruth Banks and carried.
- Consideration of Minutes – Minutes from the following meetings were available for consideration:
 - a. Closed session held October 1, 2015
 - b. Regular meeting held November 5, 2015
 - c. Closed session held November 5, 2015
 - d. Special meeting held November 17, 2015
 - e. Special meeting held November 24, 2015

Ron Powell moved to approve all of the aforesaid minutes. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

- Toe River Arts Council Update

SmART Update - Denise Cook gave a brief update on the status of the SmART program and introduced Denise Dickens, with whom the group has been working. Ms. Dickens gave background on the process to arrive at a master plan for the town’s proposed gateways, mentioning that public meetings and surveys had been conducted. She said the public art plan, which was adopted in May of 2015, solidifies the partnerships between local artists, the town, county, TRAC, the NC DOT, and Department of Cultural Resources. A slide show demonstrated some of the artistic concepts that are being considered for installation in the rights-of-way. Nancy Trovillian, with the NC Arts Council, said Burnsville will be a pilot project to demonstrate how the arts are building economies and improving quality of life.

There were questions about the durability, maintenance and safety of the project. Ms. Trovillion said the DOT is very careful about safety in the approval process. The proposed art is designed to be very durable, and maintenance will be the responsibility of the DOT for the first year and possibly two years to establish landscaping.

Consideration of Resolution – In January Councilors will consider a proposed *Resolution Supporting the Town's Application for Public Art at the Gateway/Intersections into Downtown Burnsville from Scenic Highway 19E in Accordance with the North Carolina Public Art on the Right-of-Way Policy.*

- Christmas Caroling on the Square – The Mayor gave an update on an event to present Christmas caroling on the Town Square. She has been coordinating this December 11th event with the Chamber of Commerce, and groups will be scheduled to sing 20 minutes each. Costs, which will be paid from the Community Promotions line, should not exceed \$150, and will include a sound system from Brandon Bailey, and maybe a heater from Westside Rental. Judy Buchanan moved to approve the program. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.
- Planning Board Report – Planning Board Chair Dean Gates was absent from the meeting due to illness. Available for review were:
 - a. Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held November 19, 2015; and
 - b. Minutes from the Design Review Committee meeting held November 19, 2015.
- Advisory Board Appointments:
 - a. Planning Board – Ron Powell moved to reappoint Dean Gates to the Planning Board. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye

Ruth Banks
Judy Buchanan
Shannon Peterson
Ron Powell

Abstain

Theresa Coletta (abstained with reservation, although she respects Mr. Gates' work)

- b. Public Art Design Board – Ron Powell recommended that Council consider the reappointments of Chad Fox, Ron Powell and Armin Wessel to the Public Art Design Board through December of 2017. He said that the Public Art Design Board will be meeting in January to discuss policy revisions, including extensions to appointment terms.

Ruth Banks made a motion to appoint Chad Fox, Ron Powell and Armin Wessel to the Public Art Design Board through December of 2017. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Aye

Ruth Banks
Judy Buchanan
Shannon Peterson
Ron Powell

Abstain

Theresa Coletta (abstained with reservation, although she respects Mr. Powell's work)

- c. Rural Transportation Advisory Committee (RTAC) – Judy Buchanan moved to appoint Ron Powell to High Country’s Rural Transportation Advisory Committee. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.
 - d. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – Theresa Coletta moved to appoint Shannon Buchanan to serve on the Yancey County EDC. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.
- Department Updates:
 - a. Administration:
 - Personnel Policy update (Jeanne Martin/Judy Buchanan)
 - ✓ With a few exceptions, the job descriptions are complete. A final review of the entire policy is currently underway.
 - Unpaid Balance Report pursuant to G.S. 105-369(a) dated November 30, 2015, was provided as an update of uncollected revenues, was available for review. Council was told that a variety of collection efforts are underway.
 - State Health Plan – it appears that the town will be eligible for February 1st enrollment.
 - Finance Issues
 - ✓ The Budget vs. Actual dated November 30, 2015 was previously provided to Council for review. Judy Buchanan moved to approve the report. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.
 - Mayor’s Administrative Report
 - ✓ In order to accommodate Shannon Peterson’s work schedule, monthly worksessions will be moved to the third Tuesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. on a trial basis.
 - ✓ Christmas parade – Councilors will report to the maintenance shed at 2 p.m. on the 5th.
 - ✓ Councilors were reminded that the Code of Ethics and an opinion from the School of Government that was provided earlier will be discussed in the January worksession. One more topic will be on the agenda, which will then be closed.
 - b. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell reported
 - Status of Property
 - ✓ Fundraising efforts – An ATV that was purchased by the Department for a fund raiser was won by Ron Chandler, who gave the vehicle back to the Department for further fund raising. The Women’s Club donated \$1000 towards the building and asked to ride in the parade on a fire truck in return. Raffle tickets are being sold for the junior firefighter turnout gear that was donated; the donor has pledged another set of gear if \$500 isn’t raised with the first outfit.
 - Operations
 - ✓ Council reviewed a written report.
 - c. Police Department – Chief Brian Buchanan reported:
 - Chief Buchanan advised that he is working on a call report similar to the one used by the Fire Department for Council review.
 - The department is involved in preparing a grant application through the Governor’s Crime Commission for up to \$24000 in technology upgrades with no local match. The grant is competitive, but focused on small departments.
 - d. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Anthony Hensley reported:

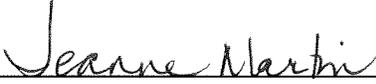
- The department is continuing with capital improvement projects. As to sewer improvements, filming data is currently being reviewed by engineers as they prepare a repair schedule.
 - Christmas decorations are currently being installed.
 - Preparations are underway for winter activities, including the stocking of salt and sand.
 - Work on GoldenLeaf grants for two projects is ongoing.
 - Zoning documents are being review for codification with American Legal.
- e. Town Center – Chad Fox provided an update on Town Center events, mentioning that there will be a number of Christmas parties and a concert on December 18th. Santa will arrive tomorrow night. He told council he has been making efforts to have a better digital footprint for improved marketing. The mayor reported on a letter she received from someone who had used the facility for a wedding and the excellent service they experienced from Chad.
- Council Members' Reports
 - a. Mayor Theresa Coletta:
 - The Mayor reminded Councilors of the town's Christmas luncheon on December 17th.
 - Councilors were advised that newly-elected Shannon Peterson and Judy Buchanan plan to visit the water plant and later interview Anthony Hensley to better acquaint themselves with the operation.
 - The High Country Council of Governments plans to go to Washington in pursuit of federal funds, and the Mayor has asked to be included on the trip.
- Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits
 - a. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials available.
 - b. Toe River Arts Council - minutes and financials available.
 - a. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – minutes were available.
 - EDC Director Wanda Proffitt welcomed Councilor Shannon Peterson on her Board.
 - Council learned that Yancey County has just been designated as a Tier One county, effective January 1st.
 - Mrs. Proffitt said she has been putting together a fund raising group for public art. She said former Mayor David Grindstaff has agreed to be part of the group.
- Other – Judy Buchanan moved to recess and reconvene in closed session. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.

Pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(1) and NCGS 143-318.11(a)(3), Council entered closed session.

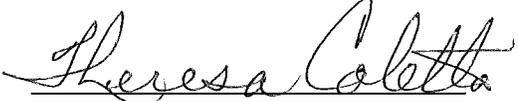
As a result of closed session, Ron Powell moved to authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement between Mountain Air and the Town of Burnsville for utility services. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- Next Regular Town Council Meeting – The next regular town council meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of January.

- There being no further business, Judy Buchanan moved to adjourn. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor