

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting (for Regular May, 2015 Business)
Thursday, May 11, 2015

On May 11, 2015, the Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Ron Powell and Bill Wheeler present, held a special meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Anthony Hensley, and Jeanne Martin; and visitors Denise Cook, Lucy Doll, Dean and Sandra Gates, former Mayor David Grindstaff, Rhonda Higgins, Wanda Proffitt, Woody Ryan, Kelly Rothe, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of May, 2015.

- Public Comment
 - a. Dean Gates spoke after the Mayor announced he was celebrated earlier in the evening by the Yancey County Commissioners upon his selection for the 2015 Governor's Award for Volunteer Service. Mr. Gates thanked Council for the nomination and support. He also thanked town staff, mentioning the success of the Planning Board is due to the people around him.
 - b. Kelly Rothe provided more information about the upcoming health fair planned to take place on the town square. She asked to borrow a projector from the town; Chad Fox noted the request.
- Adoption of Agenda – Ron Powell made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, which carried.
- Consideration of Minutes – Minutes from the following meetings were available for consideration:
 - a. Regular meeting held April 2, 2015
 - b. Closed session held April 2, 2015
 - c. Special meeting held April 27, 2015.

Councilor Ron Powell presented a copy of an email containing a list of changes he would like to see in the minutes of the Special Meeting held April 27, 2015. After a lengthy discussion, Ron Powell made a motion to approve all of the aforesaid minutes as written. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- Public Art Design Board – Denise Cook reminded Council that at the last regular meeting Armin Wessel presented a Resolution for the adoption of the Burnsville SmART Public Art Plan, which was tabled at that time for further consideration. Ms. Cook summarized the activities that had been undertaken by a variety of individuals that led to the proposed Resolution. She emphasized that the process involved a good bit of community engagement, and that the town has gained the support of the State Arts Council, that will help with funding and facilitation of our arts program. These activities have also brought connections with the D.O.T., which helped demystify the road improvements and enhancements that may be available to help the public find Burnsville.

Ms. Cook explained that the proposed Resolution not only includes the adoption of the Public Art Plan, but also outlines budgetary commitments that will be made by the town, should the town

budget allow. These budgetary commitments can provide a means for saving money to purchase art, provide leverage for future grants, etc.

The Mayor said that it should be understood the Resolution is to adopt the plan, and if the budget won't allow us to honor the financial commitments, it isn't binding. Ron Powell made a motion to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

- Planning Board Report – Chairman Dean Gates, with Council member Ron Powell:
 - a. Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held April 21, 2015 were available for review.
 - b. As to remark #3 in Councilor Powell's email on the chicken ordinance that was submitted earlier in the meeting, Mr. Gates told Council that the newspaper's comments were taken out of context.
 - c. With regard to codification of ordinances, Mr. Gates advised that Woody Ryan has agreed to help bring all amendments together since the last codification. He said they hope to have this accomplished by the June Council meeting.

- Town Administrator/Public Works Report – Anthony Hensley reported:
 - a. We are continuing our pursuit of ARC funding through the USDA for the Micaville project, and continue work on the \$1.2 million grant from GoldenLEAF.
 - b. Work is underway to film and clean a section of lines on the east side, a project that was included in capital improvement projects for this year.
 - c. As to water projects, we have been helping the Fire Department on their hydrant inventory program in preparation for their ISO review.
 - d. Regarding our work with McGill and GIS program, we actually have maps now to visualize waterlines. This will be an ongoing project as lines are added.
 - e. We are now in compliance with state guidelines as to backflow prevention.
 - f. The contract for the sidewalk project around town hall has been let; work should begin in the next couple of weeks.
 - g. Pizza Hut Annexation – the Planning Board has forwarded a recommendation to annex this property. Setting a hearing date is the next step, if Council chooses to move forward. Ron Powell made a motion to annex the Pizza Hut property. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.
 - h. Other - Council considered various dates for the Public Hearing on annexation. It was agreed that a Special Meeting will be scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of July, and hold hearings on the annexation of the Pizza Hut property and on the FY 2015-2016 budget.

Additionally, Council was told that Attorney Heather Hockaday has recommended a workshop on issues regarding zoning ordinance provisions, Board of Adjustment variances, and enforcement. Council decided to schedule a Special Meeting for this purpose and to work on the FY 2015-2016 budget at the Burnsville Town Center on Friday, May 22, 2015, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

▪ Department Updates:

a. Administration:

- Personnel Policy update (Jeanne Martin/Judy Buchanan)
 - ✓ Currently working on benefits, including short term disability
 - ✓ Final review of work completed to date is underway
- Unpaid Balance Report pursuant to G.S. 105-369(a) dated May 7, 2015 was available for review. Council was told that a variety of collection efforts are underway.
- Finance Issues (Leslie Crowder)
 - ✓ Contract with Young, Miller and Gillespie, P. A. for the FY 2014-2015 audit was available for review. Judy Buchanan made a motion to approve the contract for audit. Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, which carried.
 - ✓ Council reviewed the Budget vs. Actual dated May 8, 2015.

b. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell was absent from the meeting, but visitor David Grindstaff, who is a volunteer fireman, updated Council on work being done prior to the ISO review. Mr. Grindstaff said almost all hydrants have been tested and paperwork is being pulled together. He said it is important for Council to understand the impact a good ISO rating can have, particularly on businesses.

c. Police Department – Chief Brian Buchanan reported that the department’s audit, the first in 20 years, is complete, and the verbal report is very good. He advised a new officer is filling a current vacancy, and he is awaiting his paperwork.

Councilor Ron Powell reported on the Burnsville 5k, commenting that there were lots of kids participating, many volunteers, and great help from the Police and Fire Departments. He also commented that the town square looked beautiful. Chief Buchanan said the race began at 10 a.m., and the streets were open by 10:45. There were approximately 150 participants.

Mayor Coletta thanked Chief Buchanan for the courtesies recently extended to Carolyn Cort’s family.

d. Town Center – Chad Fox gave an update on Town Center events, mentioning that over 3 consecutive days in the past week there were 3 fund raisers, which were all very successful. The upcoming month offers several student-related events, weddings, and an East Yancey High School reunion. Two musical events are scheduled in May.

▪ Council Members’ Reports

a. Mayor Theresa Coletta:

- The mayor thanked everyone who attended the *Teen Life* program and dinner.
- Mayor Coletta reported on the *Planning for Our Prosperity* program that was held on April 30th. She said early-leavers did not hear the great comments/suggestions at the end, but feedback is being compiled. The Farmers’ Market was a recurring topic, and she told Council that she will be meeting with the farmers; a report will be forthcoming.
- The Mayor said the group working on the celebration of Mt. Mitchell’s 100 years will meet this Thursday at the Town Hall at 7:15.

b. Councilor Ron Powell reported that the Public Art Design Board met earlier today, and proposals were presented by artist Barbara Webster for sidewalk art.

▪ Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits

- a. Yancey County EDC - Wanda Proffitt reported that the BDG and the EDC co-sponsored the *Gear Up* competition for East Yancey and Cane River middle school students. This is the second year for this event, and presentations were much stronger.

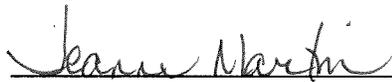
Mrs. Proffitt said that she and Jamie McMahan attended the *Raleigh NC Tomorrow* summit on April 27th and participated in a panel discussion to share information on Yancey County's broadband.

Country Cable's Dean Russell reported that their grant is winding down; subscribers need to contact them before June 30th to take advantage of the grant.

Mrs. Proffitt reported that she recently worked with the Yancey Fund to recognize three major industries, Glen Raven, Altec, and the Rogers Group, each of whom made sizeable contributions to the Yancey Fund to meet its goal.

- b. High Country Council of Governments – minutes were available.
c. Parkway Playhouse – financials were available.
d. Toe River Arts Council – minutes were available. Denise Cook reminded Council of the concert this week at the Baptist Church and the *Paint Out* this coming Saturday.

- Next Regular Town Council Meeting – The next town council meeting will be held on June 4, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of June. There being no further business, Judy Buchanan moved to adjourn. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor