

TOWN OF BURNSVILLE
Special Meeting
June 1, 2015

On June, 2015, the Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, and Ron Powell present, held a special meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were staff members Leslie Crowder, Anthony Hensley, and Jeanne Martin; and visitor David Grindstaff. The Mayor called the meeting to order, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to:

1. Consider and possibly take action on a Resolution to schedule a public hearing on the annexation of a parcel of property located between US Highway 19E and West Main Street that is a portion of the old Avondale Mills parking area (Pizza Hut):

Council discussed the need for a public hearing on this matter. Ron Powell made a motion to adopt the Resolution to schedule the hearing for June 25, 2015 at 5:45 p.m. at the Burnsville Town Center. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and carried.

2. Consider and possibly take action on matters concerning the proposed FY 2015-2016 budget:

Water/Sewer Rates - Council considered a water/sewer rate schedule that depicted a 2% increase. Anthony Hensley said the increase would be necessary to keep up with the capital improvement projects that are already two years behind. He advised that we need to be funding capital improvements at the rate of \$700,000/year, and this increase would only amount to \$250,000. He said that sewer filming was done on the east end recently and the crew couldn't film because the pipes were badly collapsed. If only emergency repairs were undertaken, there would be DENR issues to deal with in addition to the cost of upgrading the infrastructure.

Mayor Coletta commented that water rates are one area in which people, particularly the elderly, seem to be concerned, and she would like to see no increase or just a small one.

Councilor Ron Powell said he understands people are upset, but a 2% increase would keep the town on top of the projects. He said if you miss one year, it's hard to recover.

Councilor Bill Wheeler said that there are people living on \$700 to \$800 per month, which Council needs to be mindful of and operate within the town's means.

Leslie Crowder asked Council to consider a payoff of the water plant loan, which would save \$30,000 and free up the budget approximately \$140,000. In order to have money on hand for capital improvement projects and unforeseen needs, it was decided to leave the loan in place.

After the above discussion, Councilors were asked to indicate their feelings on the water/sewer rate increase. Bill Wheeler favored 0%; Ron Powell at least 2%; Ruth Banks might consider 1%; Judy Buchanan favored a 1% in order to avoid a huge increase at one time; and the Mayor favored 1% to give the public a small break, even though it doesn't seem like a lot. The budget will be set at a 1% increase. Ron Powell commented that he was comfortable with everyone's feelings, but not that number.

Budgeted Capital Improvement Projects – Council reviewed a list of capital improvement projects that have been provided for in this year’s budget. Anthony Hensley explained each project on the list.

Salaries – Leslie Crowder summarized how the budget would be impacted by either a 2% or 3% salary increase.

The Mayor said she continues to be impressed with the quality of employees we have and talked about the importance of appropriate compensation to retain them. She said she would like to work on a salary study with Leslie Crowder and Robert Branch in the coming year.

The Mayor also said she thought Council should consider reverting to the administrative structure that existed previously, without an Administrator. Judy Buchanan commented that she never felt the need for the administrative position.

Ron Powell cautioned Council about making a move to revert. He asked if the town shouldn’t consider a town manager with legislative authority. He said the future will be more problematic with completion of the four lane, and while it worked in the past, three individuals running the town is not efficient and will bog down progress. Judy Buchanan agreed that the position may be necessary in the future, but not at this time.

Anthony Hensley presented a list of duties with which he is currently charged. Judy Buchanan commented that these were the same duties as originally in place and would not change from that list. In order to discuss Mr. Hensley’s duties and performance as town administrator, Judy Buchanan made a motion for Council to enter closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11(a)(6). Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried. Staff members Anthony Hensley, Jeanne Martin, and Leslie Crowder, along with visitor David Grindstaff, left the meeting.

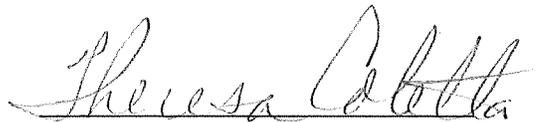
Council reconvened in open session. No action was taken as a result of closed session.

Council decided to give Anthony Hensley a 5% increase in recognition of his two positions. Leslie Crowder and Jeanne Martin were awarded a 3% increase. Council members agreed to decline increases for themselves.

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



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor