

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
Thursday, June 2, 2016

On June 2, 2016, 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, Jon England, Chad Fox, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Dr. John Boyd, Claudette Carroll, Dean Gates, Ralph Hammonds, Tim Honeycutt, Ginger Johnson, Phyllis Pippins, Wanda Proffitt, Armin Wessel, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of June, 2016.

- Public Comment
 - a. Armin Wessel, speaking as Chair of the Public Art Design Board, gave an update on the Art Board's recent quarterly meeting. He said they are considering a new board member, which Council may soon be asked to approve.
 - b. On the issue of downtown businesses that are suffering because of delays in the highway widening project, Ralph Hammonds acknowledged the windfall that is in the works coming from Raleigh to the Chamber of Commerce in the form of DOT fines, and suggested the Chamber allocate some of that money to advertise businesses. On a different issue, he asked if anyone knew who had the loudest muffler in town.
 - c. Phyllis Pippins expressed gratitude for having the farmers' market moved to the square, as it seems to have made a difference. She discussed problems with downtown parking, and encouraged merchants to park in spots other than outside their shops. Employees with the Chamber of Commerce often take 3 of the designated 6 spots.
 - d. Tim Honeycutt, owner of the *Menagerie*, *Kool Katz* and the upcoming *Hot Dawgs*, discussed suffering downtown businesses. He also is pleased to see that the penalty money from highway delays will come back to the county, but would like to see more designated to the businesses themselves. He said he would like to see the money used for as much business promotion as possible.

- Adoption of Agenda – Theresa Coletta asked for the Mayor's Report to be moved towards the beginning of the agenda as she would be leaving the meeting early. After her departure Judy Buchanan would chair the meeting as mayor protem. Ron Powell moved to amend the agenda to permit the Mayor's Report to be considered earlier. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

- Consideration of Minutes – Minutes from the following meetings were available for consideration:
 - a. Regular meeting held May 5, 2016
 - b. Special meeting held May 24, 2016

Ron Powell moved to approve the aforesaid minutes, as written. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- Mayland Community College Update – Dr. John Boyd updated Council on the status of Mayland’s Pinebridge project, which will be an economic driver. He presented artist renderings of the building after renovation, and said \$2 million has been committed from bond funds. He commented that the project’s biggest impact will be felt in Spruce Pine and Burnsville.

Dr. Boyd gave an update on the observatory project, which is expected to be running this winter. The observatory is projected to be a destination point and an economic driver.

- Planning Board Report – Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held May 18, 2016 were available for review.

Dean Gates told Council that the Planning Board is processing through a review of the Zoning Ordinance in as expeditious a manner as possible. Ronnie Tipton mentioned that there are three new businesses opening in the C-1 district that will have to go through the quasi-judicial hearing process if a list of permitted uses isn’t approved beforehand.

Ron Powell moved to schedule a Public Hearing for 6:10 p.m. on June 21, 2016 at the Burnsville Town Center to consider Articles 4, 5, and 8 of the Town’s Zoning Ordinance. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. The mayor strongly encouraged that future public hearings be held at regular Council meetings. In response, Judy Buchanan moved to hold future public hearings during regular Council meetings, whenever possible. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Mr. Gates said mobile homes will be considered at the next Planning Board meeting. Ron Powell moved that the Planning Board review the mobile home ordinance and subsequently report recommendations for conditional use in the R-10 zoning district. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. The Planning Board has 30 days to submit recommendations.

- Mayor’s Administrative Report
 - a. SB 839 - The Mayor discussed her concerns over the instability of Burnsville’s businesses and the role the delays in the highway widening project has played. She said HB 839, which was introduced by Senator Ralph Hise, directs that ½ of the penalties imposed on Young and McQueen by the DOT be forwarded to the Chamber of Commerce. The Mayor advised there had been no conversation between Senator Hise and the Town of Burnsville or Yancey County before the bill’s introduction. She suggested that ½ of the Chamber’s portion of the penalties be directed to the Town of Burnsville for promotion of businesses. Ron Powell moved to authorize the mayor’s signature on a letter to Ralph Hise asking for his support in amending HB 839 to direct that ½ of the penalty money coming to the Chamber of Commerce be distributed to the Town of Burnsville for business promotion. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
 - b. State Legislators – The mayor advised she would be attending “Town Hall Day” in Raleigh on June 8th.

- Proposal and Time Line for Water/Sewer Improvements
 - a. Proposal for the Updated AMP/CIP by McGill Associates – Ronnie Tipton advised that we submitted most of the necessary information to McGill Associates today.
 - b. Harry Buckner, our engineer with McGill Associates, has left that firm after 23 years, and Mike Waresak will assume this project. Mr. Waresak has engineered many of the Town’s projects over the years, and we are confident the quality of work will not suffer.

- Petition for Voluntary Annexation – True North Equities, LLC – Heather Hockaday reported that she was told the easements were being circulated for signature; this issue will be tabled until their receipt by the Town of Burnsville.

- Speed Bumps – Councilor Shannon Peterson asked about the status of speed bumps. Ronnie Tipton reported that some time ago Council suspended their use until the Planning Board could conduct a study, and there has been no recommendation to date. Mr. Peterson moved for the Police Chief to research what other towns practice. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

- Resolution to Declare Property Surplus – Councilors learned that there is a large lot of miscellaneous electronics and other items, including a mower with a broken block, which are of no use to the town and need to be declared surplus. A list of those items is attached to these minutes and by reference made a part hereof. Shannon Peterson moved to declare the aforesaid items surplus. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

- Department Updates:
 - a. Administration:
 - Personnel Policy update – Heather Hockaday reported the Gastonia attorney has gone through the personnel policy draft and is currently redlining suggested revisions. After receipt of the edited version, we will schedule a Personnel Policy Committee meeting for review of the proposed changes.
 - Unpaid Balance Report pursuant to G.S. 105-369(a) dated May 31, 2016, provided as an update of uncollected revenues, was available for review. Council was told that a variety of collection efforts are underway.
 - Finance Issues
 - ✓ The Budget vs. Actual dated May 31, 2016 was previously provided to Council for review.
 - b. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell reported:
 - Status of Property
 - ✓ Fundraising efforts – Nothing new at this point.
 - ✓ The RFQ for architectural services will be advertised this week.
 - Operations
 - ✓ Council reviewed the Fire Department’s Monthly Update.
 - ✓ The department has been able to hire two part-time employees to cover four days each week, which will fill the full-time vacancy.
 - c. Police Department – Chief Brian Buchanan
 - The police activity log was available for review.

- Councilors were invited to a JCPC luncheon on June 10th from 11:30 – 1:00. This will be an opportunity to update elected officials on the agency's activities.
- d. Public Works Department – Ronnie Tipton reported:
 - East Yancey Sewer District Update – The County has entered into a pre-start-up contract with Jad Brewer, who will be the ORC on the project. We have identified several problems at the plant that need to be addressed immediately to reach the July 1 start date. There have been discussions about several logistical and billing issues. We have been given the authority to fix some problems, and have set up a meeting with the McGill engineer who designed the plant to resolve others. Heather Hockaday reported that she has met with District representatives on the option to purchase. She explained that warranties have already expired due to delays in the project, and the option period will begin after we receive a letter from the District stating that the plant is operational. Council was reminded that the first \$85,000 commitment is included in the upcoming budget. As to the option to purchase for an additional \$85,000, Ron Powell said that the issue of whether the town should own the plant is now a whole new question, since water is now an attractive component to be considered. Mrs. Hockaday reminded Council that the initial \$85,000 is a commitment; if the town elects to abandon the project, that \$85,000 is lost.
 - Air piping at the Wastewater Treatment Plant is complete.
 - Pump #2 at the raw water pump station has been rebuilt and reinstalled.
 - We have been working with the D.O.T. to secure some additional parking spaces off South Main Street.
 - We are still awaiting delivery of the new tractor for right-of-way clearing.
 - The mini-excavator should be equipped and delivered next week.
- e. Town Center – Manager Chad Fox gave an update on upcoming events which include a middle school dance, a fund raiser, a wedding, graduation parties, *Buncombe Turnpike/Blind Squirrel* concert/brew tasting, *Riddlefest*, a national Christian rock act, and a Brian Gurl concert.
- f. Other
 - There was discussion of the need to set hearing dates for the FY 2016-2017 budget as well as for allocations that will be made to non-profits for economic development purposes. Ron Powell moved to hold a budget hearing at 6:00 p.m. on June 21, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Burnsville Town Center; and further to hold a hearing for allocations to non-profits for economic development the same day and place, at 6:05 p.m. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

▪ Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits

- a. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials available
- b. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – No minutes available.

Wanda Profitt reported that Hickory Springs has a new plant manager and now employs 123. They are anxious for the sewer connection, as they are expanding and bringing in more equipment, which has been made possible because of the sewer opportunity. They have been retooling, making a plastic part for equipment in the Anspacht building. The Anspacht project is being looked at as a tremendous asset.

Mrs. Proffitt has been talking with Yancey County about updating the county strategic plan, as we have satisfied the majority of the existing plan.

The hosiery mill is currently on the market now that it has water.

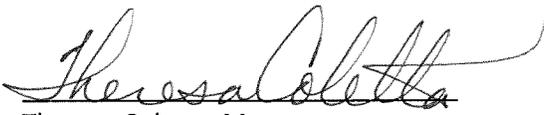
- Next Regular Town Council Meeting – The next regular town council meeting will be held on Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Center to consider regular business for the month of August.

A special meeting will be held June 21, 2016 at the Burnsville Town Center at 6:00 p.m. to consider regular business for the month of July, 2016.

- There being no further business, Shannon Peterson moved to adjourn. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor