

TOWN OF BURNSVILLE
Special Meeting
February 16, 2016

On February 16, 2016, the Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, Shannon Peterson, and Ron Powell present, held a special meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Jeanne Martin, and Ronnie Tipton; and visitors David Grindstaff (Yancey Common Times), Gerald Presnell, and Wanda Proffitt. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to consider and possibly take action on the following:

- Public Hearing pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1(b)(6) and (c) to receive public input on an allocation of \$24,470 to Winter Star Corporation, a non-profit corporation that serves as an economic development partner with Yancey County EDC
- Action subsequent to Public Hearing
- Administrative responsibility of the Mayor
- Plans for July 4th celebration
- Resolution supporting Connect NC Bond Act
- State Health Insurance

Public Hearing pursuant to N.C.G.S. 158-7.1(b)(6) and (c) to receive public input on an allocation of \$24,470 to Winterstar Corporation, a non-profit corporation that serves as an economic development partner with Yancey County EDC – Mayor Coletta opened the hearing and asked for comments. Wanda Proffitt spoke in favor of the allocation of \$24,470 to Winter Star Corporation to partially fund a fire suppression water line installation to the Burnsville Development Park. She said Yancey County is an economically distressed Tier One county and the EDC is proactively trying to create new jobs and produce economic benefits through this incubator project; however, help will be needed for the water connection. Mrs. Proffitt reminded Council that once the installation is complete, the town will have a new water customer.

With no other comments in favor of or in opposition to the allocation, Judy Buchanan moved to close the hearing. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.

The Mayor reminded Council of previous action taken on this issue, in which she was supportive.

Ron Powell described an approach the town could take to support the project, and made a motion to loan Winter Star \$25,000 from the General Fund balance with no interest and no payment until the property is sold, at which time Winter Star would repay the loan in full. Wanda Proffitt said at this time the property will be used as a business incubator and it is not for sale.

Mr. Powell said it would be a poor example to grant \$24,470 to Winter Star from the Water/Sewer fund and then actively seek grant funding for our water system. He said connection fees must be paid; if we then want to grant money to Winter Star from the General Fund, that's another option.

Motion failed for lack of a second.

Having heard the economic benefits for the town, Judy Buchanan moved to provide an incentive grant for \$24,470 from the water/sewer capital outlay line to Winter Star for an economic development

project at the former Ellis Hosiery Mill property. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion. Voting was as follows:

Ayes

Ruth Banks
Judy Buchanan
Theresa Coletta
Shannon Peterson

Noes

Ron Powell

Administrative Responsibility of the Mayor – The Mayor discussed her administrative authority/responsibilities/initiatives that have been questioned by several council members in the past few months. Handouts were distributed, some confirming that the administrative authority she has assumed as mayor is common in small towns without managers.

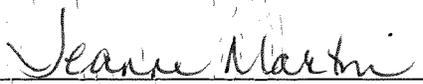
Judy Buchanan moved to give the Mayor administrative authority to pursue grants on behalf of the town to help with the water/sewer infrastructure needs of the town. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Plans for July 4th Celebration – After a discussion about the town’s interest in participating in a July 4th celebration, Ron Powell moved to authorize Ronnie Tipton to talk to Dillon Wilson about organizing the event, possibly coordinating with another organization. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Resolution Supporting Connect NC Bond Act – Councilors considered a *Resolution in Support of Connect NC Bond Act*. Ron Powell moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution; the motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and carried.

State Health Insurance – Councilors discussed initiatives that have recently been considered by the Board of Trustees for the State Health Plan to eliminate several coverage options for employees. Ron Powell moved to direct the clerk to draft letters to our State representatives requesting their help in discouraging the aforesaid initiatives. Ruth Banks seconded the motion, which carried.

There being no further business, Shannon Peterson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and carried.


Jeanné Martin, Town Clerk


Theresa Coletta, Mayor