

**BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Thursday, June 2, 2016**

The Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Ruth Banks, Judy Buchanan, and Shannon Peterson and Ron Powell present, held a regular meeting on Thursday, June 2, 2016, at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin, and Ronnie Tipton. The Mayor, who presided, called the meeting to order, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct a budget work session for FY 2016-2017.

Attention was directed to:

- ✓ Community Promotions – Ron Powell moved to fund all non-profits at last year’s level except Public Art, which will be funded in the amount of \$2500. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. It is hoped that the town will be able to fund non-profits from a new restricted tax.
- ✓ Employee increases – Ron Powell moved to increase employee salaries by 1.15%, which is tied to the CPI; and further give employees a one-time only increase of 4% to offset costs absorbed by employees for changes in healthcare coverage. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.
- ✓ Council was asked to consider another increase for an employee performing additional duties as Administrative Assistant. Theresa Coletta moved to increase the salary of this employee by 5% in recognition of the additional duties assumed since she was hired. Ron Powell seconded the motion, which carried.
- ✓ Ron Powell inquired about a recommendation made by Robert Branch to increase the salary of the Town Clerk, who has been performing administrative duties beyond her job description. No action was taken.
- ✓ Councilor Judy Buchanan introduced the idea of assigning a new task as “HR Officer” to Kim Johnson. A policy with duties for this responsibility is being drafted by the firm in Gastonia that is currently reviewing our personnel policy. Council was asked to consider directing the task to the Detective’s position, but it was pointed out this individual needs to be approachable and not intimidating. Ron Powell moved to offer the task to Kim Johnson for a six month probationary period and revisit later for a salary increase. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
- ✓ Councilor Shannon Peterson left the meeting at this point.
- ✓ Council learned that the fire tax revenues look better than first anticipated, and the Chief doesn’t feel the need for an increase in the fire tax at this point, which will remain at 6 cents. The Chief distributed an updated departmental budget. Ron Powell moved to approved the revised Fire Department budget. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.
- ✓ Shannon Peterson rejoined the meeting at this point.
- ✓ There was a discussion about the East Yancey Sewer District budget. It was noted that \$60,000 is being acknowledged as initial revenues from the District, and expenditures have been loosely forecast according to the revenues. The finance office will be paying close attention and reporting quarterly on the status, but it is likely there will be budget amendments along the way.
- ✓ There was much discussion about the town’s tax rate. Councilors were made aware that there had been no recent contribution to the fund balance which, in fact has been drawn down

considerably with the purchase of property for the future fire station. It seems reasonable to assume that over an eight-year period, with very little growth in town limits, and with the cost of goods and services growing during that period, there is very little left to put in reserve without a small tax increase. It was noted that the Fire Department will be needing a new truck in the next few years.

Ron Powell moved to increase the tax rate by one cent. Theresa Coletta, commenting that she favored a one cent increase to keep the fund balance in good standing, seconded the motion. The motion failed.

Ron Powell then moved to increase the tax rate by ½ cent. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion. Ruth Banks commented that a small increase would keep our head above water. Voting was as follows:

Ayes

Ruth Banks  
Theresa Coletta  
Ron Powell

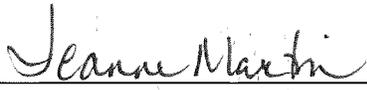
Noes

Judy Buchanan  
Shannon Peterson

Motion carried.

- ✓ There was a discussion about the cost of the parking in front of the old post office. At one time, restricted parking was looked into, but it was agreed that we would affect our businesses if we imposed restrictions.

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



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor