

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Thursday, February 7, 2019

On Thursday, February 7, 2019, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox and Bunnie McIntosh present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Jon England, Chad Fox, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin, and Ronnie Tipton; Town Attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors, Shane Dale, Norman Evans, Jody Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Mike Hopson, Jennifer Jenkins, Ginger Johnson, Justin Layell, Denni Kay McCurry, Emily McCurry, Isaac McCurry, Terry McCurry, Tiffany McCurry, former Mayor Danny McIntosh, Jamie McMahan, Phillip Smith, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of February, 2019.

- **Public Comment** – Mike Hopson inquired about the status of paving West Main Street. Ronnie Tipton advised that it is anticipated to be a summer, 2019 project. Mr. Hopson also asked about the status of the art projects that are planned for the entrances to town. He was advised that there will be an informative article in the Common Times Journal in a couple of weeks.
- **Oath of Office – Isaac McCurry** – Mayor Coletta announced that Isaac McCurry has indicated a willingness to fill the Council seat that was recently vacated by Councilor Shannon Peterson. With his wife, Tiffany, and daughter, Denni Kay, by his side, Mr. McCurry took the oath of office, which was administered by the Mayor. Afterwards, Mr. McCurry took his seat at the Council table.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 1. Special meeting held December 3, 2018
 2. Special meeting held January 10, 2019 (for January, 2019 regular business)

Bunnie McIntosh mentioned that the January 10, 2019 minutes reported a deadline for the MOBI award applications that was incorrect, and asked that the minutes reflect a deadline of January 22nd instead. Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the minutes of the aforesaid meetings, with the correction to the minutes of January 10, 2019. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Presentation of the Study of Potential Water/Sewer System Development Fees** – Dale Schepers, McGill Associates, explained that new legislation mandates cost-justified water and wastewater system development fees. He described the study done by McGill Associates that follows an industry-standard approach to establish appropriate system development fees specific to the Town of Burnsville for new customers, beginning with a calculation of the value of the town's system.
- **Public Hearing on System Development Fees** – Russell Fox moved to open the Hearing on this issue. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. Norman Rabek asked Council to consider an issue related to utility services at an existing building that he owns. The Mayor reminded Mr. Rabek that the purpose of the hearing is to consider system development fees for new customers.

Former Mayor Danny McIntosh said he appreciated Council's attention to performing the study and implementing these fees. He said it is important to keep the water and sewer system solvent. He expressed appreciation for Council's selection of Isaac McCurry to the vacant Council seat.

At 6:28 p.m., Judy Buchanan moved to close the Hearing. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

▪ **Council Action Following Public Hearing**

- a. Recommendation of and discussion on calculation of the System Development Fees - Based upon discussions at a previous work session and also with the Public Works Director, Town Administrator Russell Fox recommended setting the fee at 25% of the amount that could potentially be charged, which will ensure an amount adequate to cover the town's cost.
- b. Council considered proposed *Resolution to Approve and Accept Water and Sewer System Development Fee Study and to Adopt Fee Updates to the Water and Sewer Rate and Fee Schedule for the Town of Burnsville, North Carolina pursuant to NCGS 162A*, a copy of which is attached to these minutes and by reference made a part hereof. Theresa Coletta moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution, and set the fee at 25%. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
- c. Consideration of Budget Amendment for FY 2018-2019 – Council considered a budget amendment to recognize the new fee structure set in place by the adoption of the previous Resolution. Russell Fox moved to amend the FY 2018-2019 Budget Ordinance to reflect the newly adopted fee structure. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Town Center Mural Project** – Council was reminded that artist Rhea Ormond proposed in 2014 to paint a series of murals in set-back areas at the Town Center. The project was approved by the Public Art Board and the Town Council, but money for the project was unavailable at that time. Ms. Ormond now proposes to raise the money herself and move forward with the project at no cost to the Town. The mounted and removable murals will include plaques explaining the historic accuracy of the artist's concepts. Commenting that the project is a wonderful way to tell the story of the Town Center facility, Theresa Coletta moved to approve the painting of the three murals at no cost to the town. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Planning Board** – Kim Simpson, Chair
No report was available from the Planning Board.

- **Administrative Report** – Administrator Russell Fox reported:
1. Work session schedule - Monday, February 18, 2019 will be reserved for a work session, should it be necessary to meet.
 2. Fire department building update – The Administrator reported that he, Niles Howell and Jon England met with Armin Wessel and representatives from McGill Associates. The project now seems as if it will be within budget. It is hoped that a timeline for the project will be available at the March meeting.

Theresa Coletta made a motion to enter into contracts with Armin Wessel and McGill Associates. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

A Public Hearing will be necessary prior to entering into a contract for financing the facility.

Russell Fox moved to hold a public hearing for the aforesaid purpose at 6:00 p.m. on March 7, 2019, in the Town Hall. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

3. Yancey Chamber of Commerce – The Administrator reported on the status of negotiations with the Chamber of Commerce for cost sharing with the Town for municipal services during the annual Crafts Fair. He advised that the Chamber has agreed to pay one-half of the costs for services, and they would like to enter into a contract for a set amount of time, with reassessment at the end of the term. The Administrator recommended Council approve the aforesaid plan.

Russell Fox then moved to approve the cost-sharing plan with the Chamber, as presented. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion and it carried.

4. Indian Trail/Meadow Road - the Administrator presented an amendment to the Town's *Procurement Standards Policy and Plan*, which is required as a condition of the CDBG grant on the Indian Trail/Meadow Road project. Russell Fox moved to adopt the aforesaid amendment. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

▪ **Other**

1. Administration (Jeanne Martin)

- a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated January 9, 2019 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway, with every delinquent account receiving attention. It was noted that an Order to Advertise Taxes is appropriate at this time.

Judy Buchanan moved to order the Tax Collector to advertise tax liens in accordance with NCGS 206-369(a). Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion and motion carried.

- b. Finance Report – A finance report was furnished to Council prior to the meeting. Budget Amendment #3, together with an explanation, was presented for consideration. Russell Fox moved to amend the budget for the purposes stated in Amendment #3. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

2. Fire Department (Chief Niles Howell)

- a. A report of Fire Department activities was available for review.
- b. Chief Howell reported that the Department bought air packs that usually cost \$800 for \$650.
- c. Firemen are excited to see the new fire department project is moving forward and they are anxious to see detailed drawings.

3. Police Department (Brian Buchanan)

- a. The police activity report for January was available for review.
- b. Tasers and new radios have been purchased from 100% grant funding provided by the Department of Justice. It is a goal to have new equipment for every officer.

4. Public Works (Ronnie Tipton)

- a. An activity log was available for review.
- b. Peterson Trailer Park and Indian Trail Projects Update – Regarding the Peterson project, Council heard that Thomas Construction has been a pleasure to work with, particularly in

the area of ingress/egress control. The project should wrap up near the end of March. As to the Indian Trail Project, McGill is finalizing the environmental report and funds could be released as early as mid to late March. Both projects are 100% funded by CDBG, totaling \$2 million.

- c. Follow-up on two deteriorating buildings – The barn on West Main Street is being torn down at this point. As to the Bailey Building, Mr. Bailey has advised Jon England that the contractor has measured and ordered plexiglass to be installed this weekend or the first of next week.
 - d. AMR Project – Ronnie Tipton indicated that he was pleased with the contractor on this project. Approximately 330 meters have been replaced/installed, leaving only 60 left to complete the four routes involved.
 - e. The problematic water pump discussed at an earlier Council meeting has been pulled and sent for repair.
5. Town Center (Chad Fox) – Facility Manager Chad Fox updated Councilors on upcoming events, including the annual wedding expo that could result in individual weddings booked at the Town Center. He reported that there are 24 bookings for the month of February thus far. Winter maintenance is underway with interior painting projects.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

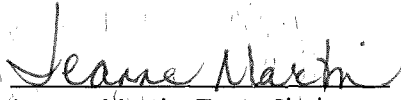
1. Mayor Theresa Coletta
 - a. The Mayor reported that the business breakfast meetings will resume March 12, 2019 and continue thereafter the second Tuesday each month through October.
 - b. Town lighting project – after a meeting with Phil Trew, Claudia Honeycutt, Russell Fox, Nealy Andrews and others, drawings are forthcoming that will take into consideration our particular lay of the land.
 - c. Joint Resolution with Yancey County – the County will be considering a Resolution establishing the first Saturday in December at 1:00 p.m. as the annual Christmas Parade date. By consensus, Councilors agreed to co-sign this Resolution upon the County's adoption.
 - d. Letter to the State Attorney General – at the suggestion of Bunnie McIntosh and upon the general agreement of all Councilors, a letter will be drafted to the State Attorney General to thank him for his receptiveness to suggestions by the SEARCH group on the Mission Health/HCA issues.
 - e. Blue Ridge Spring Home Show – this event is being spearheaded by Burnsville merchant Claudia Honeycutt, who has graciously promoted Burnsville and Yancey County by taking handouts to various shows she has attended this year in the southeast.


▪ **Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits**

1. Economic Development Commission – Director Jamie McMahan was unavailable to report, but Council was provided with the EDC's *2018 Economic Development Report for Yancey County* for review.
2. High Country Council of Governments – no meeting was held in January; therefore, there were no minutes or financials to review.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for

the month of March. Council member Judy Buchanan moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Isaac McCurry and approved by all members.


Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk


Theresa Coletta, Mayor