

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

On Thursday, March 7, 2019, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Russell Fox, Isaac McCurry and Bunnie McIntosh present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Councilor Judy Buchanan was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were town staff members Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Jeanne Martin, Phillip Smith, and Ronnie Tipton; Town Attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Deb d'Aquin Jody Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Ginger Johnson, Jamie McMahan, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of March, 2019.

- **Public Comment** – No one asked to speak during the period set aside for public comment.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – Bunnie McIntosh moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 1. Regular meeting held February 7, 2019
 2. Special meeting held February 18, 2019

Russell Fox moved to approve the aforesaid minutes. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Consideration of Resolution Regarding Financing of a Fire Department Facility** – Councilors reviewed a proposed Resolution relating to the financing of the Fire Department's building project. The elements mentioned in the Resolution are required by the Local Government Commission. Isaac McCurry moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Public Hearing on Financing Options for Burnsville Fire Department Facility** – At 6:07 p.m. Russell Fox moved to open the Public Hearing that was scheduled to consider entering into a financing contract for the construction of a new fire department facility for the Town of Burnsville. Isaac McCurry seconded the motion, which carried. Russell Fox explained that in order to satisfy the Local Government Commission, bids from three financial institutions were required. Bids were received from B B & T (Branch Banking & Trust), First Bank, and United Community Bank on a loan of \$1.3 million. The proposal from United Community Bank contained the most favorable rate and terms, 3.24% for a 15 year fixed rate term. No one from the public asked to speak during the hearing. At 6:15 p.m. Isaac McCurry moved to close the hearing. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Council Action following Public Hearing**
 1. Recommendation on commitment to financial institution – Russell Fox, Town Administrator, recommended moving forward with United Community Bank, the bank with the most favorable rate and terms, and where the Town currently does business. Bunnie McIntosh moved to accept the United Community Bank proposal upon the recommendation of the Town Administrator. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Luthier Program** – Deb d’Aquin provided an update on plans for the Luthier event, and thanked the Mayor for her support. Councilors considered and by consensus approved a Proclamation naming the week of May 24, 2019 as *LUTHIER Mountain Art, Craft and Music Week in Burnsville, NC*. It is understood that the Luthier committee will have a key to the city made for the Town of Burnsville to present at the Luthier Jam.

Bunnie McIntosh moved to approve an appeal for a \$1,000 event contribution in the current fiscal year’s budget. The motion was seconded by Russell Fox and carried. A contribution for the upcoming fiscal year will be considered during budget work sessions once a written request is received by the Town.

- **Planning Board** – Kim Simpson, Chair – Council heard about the subjects discussed at the March 6th Planning Board meeting, which included a proposed project for storage buildings at Summit Street and East Main and plans for a brewery on West Main, as well as liability concerns over the falling windows on the building across from Town Hall. Ms. Simpson mentioned the meeting was Alternate Planning Board member Paul Bradley’s first meeting. The next regular Planning Board meeting will be in June.
- **Administrative Report** – Administrator Russell Fox reported:
 1. Work session schedule - Monday, March 18, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. will be reserved for a work session, should it be necessary to meet.
 2. Fire department building update – The Administrator reported that plans should be complete in the next two weeks, and then we should be ready to go out for bid. Groundbreaking is expected this summer.
 3. Speaking on behalf of the Police Chief who was absent from the meeting, Mr. Fox explained to Council that a street closure will be necessary on April 27th for the Burnsville Metric from noon until 4 p.m. Isaac McCurry moved to authorize Russell Fox and Brian Buchanan to meet with the Chamber of Commerce on insurance and safety issues. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
 4. A *Resolution to Declare a Vehicle Surplus* was considered concerning a 2010 Crown Victoria that was assigned to the Police Department. Russell Fox moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. The motion was seconded by Isaac McCurry and carried.
- **Other**
 1. Administration (Jeanne Martin)
 - a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated March 3, 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 only 5% of the 2018 levy remains unpaid.
 - b. Finance Report – A finance report was furnished to Council prior to the meeting. Budget worksheets have been distributed to Department Heads and are due Friday, April 5th. Dates for budget work sessions will need to be decided upon at the April meeting.

2. Fire Department (Phillip Smith for Chief Niles Howell)
 - a. A report of Fire Department activities was available.
 - b. A sample of the new dress uniforms was available for Councilors to see. Once all uniforms are received, a photograph of firemen will be taken and placed in the new building's museum.
 - c. Mr. Smith updated Council on the status of grants.
 - d. Certification classes are ongoing,
 - e. The Department is working on a Brotherhood biking event that will take place on June 28th and end up in Burnsville.
3. Police Department (Ronnie Tipton for Brian Buchanan)
 - a. The police activity totals are elevated this past month.
4. Public Works (Ronnie Tipton/Jon England)
 - a. An activity log was available for review. The Department is running smoothly. The raw water pump that was discussed in an earlier meeting has been removed, rebuilt and replaced.
 - b. Peterson Trailer Park Project Update – A progress meeting was held last week, and everything is on schedule, with the contractor doing a great job. Substantial completion is expected March 26th and final completion on April 25th.
 - c. Indian Trail Project Update – The project is moving along. The environmental review has been submitted and was reviewed by DEQ. There were some comments which have been addressed by McGill. We are now awaiting final approval.
 - d. The AMR project is very near completion on Routes 1 – 4, leaving only 8 meters for completion. Just over 800 meters are in the ground, and the meter reading time has been cut in half.
 - e. Councilors were told about an issue that has been identified involving prior sewer allocations that have never been exercised, but are on our books and must be added to our daily flow. A time limit of one year on these allocation promises would be desirable. Heather Hockaday advised there is no language at this time how long an allocation will be honored, and an amendment to the Sewer Use Ordinance to establish a time limit would require a hearing. Isaac McCurry moved to hold a public hearing on this matter at the next regular meeting on April 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
 - f. Jon England reported on new business activity:
 - 1) The Bojangles permit will expire in June, but the developer has been held up by bad weather on other projects and expects to begin work at the former Steakhouse site in the next 2 – 3 weeks.
 - 2) The former Banco Building and the Hensley House were purchased and will be developed as a new home for Homeplace Brewery and Hog Hollow Pizza. A Fall 2019 opening is planned.
 - 3) A Highway 55 restaurant will be opening at the former Anchor's Away site next to Rose's. An April opening is planned.
 - 4) Blue Mountain Storage is proposing a storage building project at Summit Street and East Main.
 - 5) Pappy's Gunsmith, a gun repair and camping equipment outlet, moved to the Fox Shopping Center in a space that was formerly a tattoo operation.

- 6) Ted's Gulf has sold but there are no plans at this time.
 - 7) The County is actively trying to sell the old hospital on West Main Street. A substantial amount of work will need to be done to the building.
 - 8) Other – The window issue at the Bailey Building has been remedied, and the old barn on West Main Street is undergoing controlled demolition.
5. Town Center (Chad Fox) – Facility Manager Chad Fox updated Councilors on upcoming events during the month of March, including two live music performances, a craft show and children's resale event.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

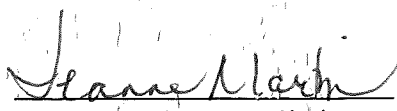
1. Mayor Theresa Coletta

- a. Business Breakfast Update - The Mayor reported that the business breakfast meetings will resume at 7:30 on March 12, 2019 and continue thereafter the second Tuesday each month through October.
- b. Town lighting project – no update this month.
- 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.
- d. NC DOT, regarding vehicles on East-West Main Street – The Mayor expressed concerns about traffic congestion on this road. Truck and car congestion does not complement shopping and outside dining. The Town of Weaverville has similar circumstances, and the Mayor asked Council if she could enter into a discussion with appropriate individuals in Weaverville about controlling these activities. Council generally agreed.
- e. Small Town Main Street Conference – Council learned that the Mayor, Bunnie McIntosh and Claudia Honeycutt will be attending the conference.


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

1. Economic Development Commission – Director Jamie McMahan advised that a lot of projects are being worked on. Three applications were received for the EDC's downtown entrepreneurship grant, including an application from John Silver for his new brewery operation, another from Steven Wright for Highway 55, and the third from the new owner of RadDawg's. These applications will be reviewed in April.
2. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available for review.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of April. Council member Bunnie McIntosh moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Russell Fox and approved by all members.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor