

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Thursday, April 5, 2018

On April 5, 2018, 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. Councilor Shannon Peterson was out of town and unable to attend. 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 Denise Collier, Gordon Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Ginger Johnson, Jamie McMahan, Ron Powell, Harrison Tyner, Joyce Watts, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of April, 2018.

- **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 written. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 1. Regular meeting held March 1, 2018
 2. Special meeting held March 20, 2018

Russell Fox moved to adopt the minutes of the aforesaid meetings. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

- **High Country Area Agency on Aging** – tabled until next month.
- **Planning Board Report** - Harrison Tyner
 1. Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held March 22, 2018 were available for review.
 2. At the meeting on March 22nd the Planning Board discussed a restaurant project on West Main Street and formulated recommendations for the project.
 3. Also at their March meeting, Planning discussed vacant and neglected buildings in town and the negative effect they have on property values. This is something the Planning Board will be working on with the town attorney in the next few months.
 4. Heather Hockaday shared the process that must be followed in order to appoint a third alternate to the Planning Board.
- **Administrative Report** – Russell Fox
 1. The following work sessions will be held during April:
 - a. April 9, 2018 – for the purpose of holding a USDA meeting at 9:30 a.m.; and conducting evaluations
 - b. April 17, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
 - c. April 24, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.
 2. Resolution: *National Fair Housing Month* – Available for consideration was *National Fair Housing Month* Resolution. Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

3. Councilors learned about a proposal offered by Verizon for the installation at the Town Center of 2 to 3 antennas that will be mounted on non-penetrating platforms and held down with weights in exchange for \$200/month for 25 years. The 28" x 28" antennas should not alter the building in any way and the Town will not be liable for power bills that would come from these antennas.

Judy Buchanan moved to authorize building manager Chad Fox to enter into discussion with Verizon on the aforesaid arrangement. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

▪ **Department Updates:**

1. Administration – Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk/Tax Collector
 - a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated April 2, 2018 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway, with every delinquent account receiving attention.

Councilors were told that of the \$61,974 that is delinquent, \$24,620.04 will be advertised in the Yancey Common Times next week, approximately \$12,000 is being paid through a court order, and \$11,698 is personal property, which is very difficult to collect. Two accounts are currently in foreclosure.

- b. Finance Issues:
 - 1) The Budget vs. Actual dated April 2, 2018 was furnished to Council.

2. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell reported:

- a. Status of Property
 - 1) Report on building project and financing (USDA Grant) – A required public meeting on USDA financing will be held on April 9th. The interest rate on the loan has gone from 3.5 to 3.875%, and we hope the rate will remain stable until the loan is approved.
 - 2) Available for review was a Resolution *Authorizing the Filing of an Application for Approval of a Financing Agreement Authorized by North Carolina General Statute 160A-20*. Russell Fox moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- b. Operations – Councilors received an activity summary for the month.
- c. Work on the departmental budget is ongoing. We are awaiting word on several grant applications that have been filed.

3. Police Department - Chief Brian Buchanan reported:

- a. Council reviewed the department's activity log for the month of March, 2018
- b. The following Ordinances for road closures were considered:
 - 1) Fit Families 5k – May 12, 2018
 - 2) Mt. Mitchell Crafts Fair – August 2, 3 and 4, 2018
 - 3) Farm to Fork – August 26, 2018

Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the aforesaid Ordinances. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

- c. Burnsville Metric – will be held April 28, 2018. Does not require a road closure, but will need duty officers to accommodate the process. Once the participants leave town the event is handled by the Highway Patrol and Sheriff's Office.

4. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Ronnie Tipton reported:
 - a. An activity log was available for review.
 - b. The option to purchase the East Yancey Sewer Plant was considered again by Council. The rationale favoring the purchase was discussed. Mayor Theresa Coletta moved to exercise the option to purchase in exchange for \$85,000. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.
5. Town Center - Facility Manager Chad Fox provided a schedule for the month of April. Upcoming concerts include *Riddlefest*. Now that wedding season has begun, there is only one Saturday available through October.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

1. Mayor Theresa Coletta
 - a. Wayfinding – tabled until next month
 - b. Contract to Audit Accounts – Councilors considered a contract with Young, Miller & Gillespie to perform an audit for FY 2017-2018. It was noted that the contract price has not changed since last year. Judy Buchanan moved to approve the aforesaid contract. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
 - c. Resolution between Yancey County and Town of Burnsville, NC *Supporting Beautification Enhancements along US Highway 19E Corridor through Yancey County* was considered by Council. There was a discussion about the enhancements, which are not the highest option, but are still attractive. Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
 - d. Farmers' Market location – The Farmers' Market will reopen on April 21st in the location they occupied last year.
 - e. ASU Project (Blue Ridge Motel) – Councilors heard background on this project from Mayor Coletta. On May 4th the ASU group will be at Town Hall to give a presentation to Council and the public.
 - f. Town & State Dinner – May 29, 2018 - This will be an evening dinner with legislators. The Mayor encouraged Councilors to consider attending.

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


1. ABC Board – Eddie Bodford's term as a Director of the ABC Board expires in April of 2018. Judy Buchanan moved to reappoint Mr. Bodford as an ABC Board Director. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
2. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – Jamie McMahan reported:
 - a. Reminder that Joint EDC-County-Town meeting April 16, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Center. Lunch will be provided.
3. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available
4. SEARCH – Minutes from the SEARCH meeting held March 20, 2018 were available for review.

- Bolens' Creek Watershed – Bunnie McIntosh moved to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Russell Fox and carried.

Upon resuming open session, Council Member Judy Buchanan made a motion to authorize Public Works Director Ronnie Tipton to decline the proposal made by the owner of adjoining property to the Town's property on Bolens' Creek to enter into a "conditioned" right of way agreement; and also to negotiate the Town's portion of the bridge repair needed on the Town's easement into the Bolens' Creek property up to \$10,000.00 which is conditioned upon the Town's approval and

inspection of the repair project. The motion was seconded by Russell Fox and carried by unanimous vote.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, May 3, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of May. Judy Buchanan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.


Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk


Theresa Coletta, Mayor