

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Thursday, May 3, 2018

On May 3, 2018, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox, Bunnie McIntosh, and Shannon Peterson present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Jon England, Niles Howell, and Jeanne Martin; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Becky Carter, Denise Collier, Rhonda Higgins, Ginger Johnson, Jamie McMahan, Laura Maher, Dennis Matelski, Phillis Pippins, Cara Truitt, Harrison Tyner, Joyce Watts, Armin Wessel, Julie Wiggins, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of May, 2018.

- **Public Comment** – Armin Wessel asked that attention be given to the pavement on the lower end of Shepard Way. He also asked that parking in front of the Town Center on South Main Street be eliminated, and requested the addition of cross-stripes and “Stop Here” signs at East and West Boulevard where they intersect South Main Street.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – Bunnie McIntosh moved to adopt the agenda as written. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:
 1. Regular meeting held April 5, 2018
 2. Closed session held April 5, 2018
 3. Special meeting held April 9, 2018
 4. Closed session held April 9, 2018
 5. Special meeting held April 16, 2018
 6. Special meeting held April 17, 2018
 7. Closed session held April 17, 2018
 8. Special meeting held April 24, 2018
 9. Closed session held April 24, 2018

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

- **High Country Area Agency on Aging** – Julie Wiggins, with the High Country Area Agency on Aging, presented information on a variety of programs that are available to support family caregivers and how to access them.
- **Mission Health/HCA** – Becky Carter, President/Chief Nursing Officer of Blue Ridge Regional Hospital, and Cara Truitt, Regional Advocacy Director, Government and Community Relations, Mission Health, were available at the meeting to provide information and answer questions on the proposed purchase of the Mission Health System by HCA. Council was told that HCA is interested in the hospital system as a whole because consolidation in health care is a trend that fits the HCA strategy. An information resource for the community is MissionHealthForward.org.

- **Main Street Walking Map and Support Breakfast for Burnsville Merchants** – Denise Collier, a Downtown Burnsville merchant, discussed some obstacles merchants face that need to be overcome, particularly in the area of wayfinding for visitors. She distributed samples of a wayfinding map that Yancey Graphics could print for \$780 plus tax for 2,000 copies. Jamie McMahan, who was present at the meeting, suggested a 3-way share in the cost between the EDC, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Town. Judy Buchanan moved to approve the aforesaid expenditure. The motion was seconded by Bunnie McIntosh and carried.

The Mayor reminded Council that a breakfast to support the Burnsville merchants has been planned for May 15th at 7:30 a.m. at the Burnsville Town Center. The breakfast is being cosponsored by the Town, the EDC, and the Mayland Small Business Center. Joyce Watts, another Downtown Burnsville merchant, thanked Council for their support.

- **Planning Board Report** - Harrison Tyner
 1. Minutes from the Planning Board meeting held April 10, 2018 were available for review.
 2. There will be a joint Town Council/Planning Board meeting on downtown revitalization as it relates to vacant and neglected buildings in town and the negative effect these properties have on property values. The meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 15th, at 6:00 p.m. at the Town Hall.
- **Administrative Report** – Russell Fox reported:
 1. The following work sessions will be held during May:
 - a. May 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Bunnie McIntosh will be unable to attend.
 - b. May 16, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. Bunnie McIntosh will be unable to attend.
 2. Status of East Yancey Sewer Plant – An agreement authorizing the transfer of authority for the East Yancey Sewer District from the Yancey County Commissioners to the Town Council is being drafted. The final \$85,000 will be paid by the Town concurrent with the execution of the agreement, the completion of the project, and close-out of grant(s).
 3. Right-of-way Encroachment Agreement with the Town of Burnsville, the Toe River Arts Council, Jack Mackie, Artist, and the State of North Carolina – the aforesaid agreement was available for Council review. Attorney Heather Hockaday explained the agreement is pretty standard as far as outlining responsibility for liability, and necessary to allow the installation of improvements on D.O.T. property at the gateways. Shannon Peterson moved to authorize the Mayor sign the aforesaid agreement. 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 27, 2018 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway, with every delinquent account receiving attention.
 - b. Finance Issues:
 - 1) The Budget vs. Actual dated April 30, 2018 was furnished to Council.
 - 2) Council considered a line item transfer to accommodate the recent purchase of a new fire truck, a 2003 Chevrolet CC8C04, VIN 1GBP8J1C6F516021. Russell Fox moved to authorize the line item transfer. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
 2. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell reported:
 - a. The new fire truck was parked outside Town Hall for Councilors to inspect.

- b. Report on building project and financing (USDA Grant) – Final paperwork has been provided and received by the USDA for the loan on the fire station.
 - c. Operations – Councilors received an activity summary for the month.
3. Police Department - Chief Brian Buchanan reported:
- a. Council reviewed the department’s activity log for the month of April, 2018
 - b. The following Ordinance for road closure was considered:
 - 1) “Hero Day” – May 26, 2018

Shannon Peterson moved to adopt the aforesaid Ordinance. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

- c. Eric Penland, who is an inactive police officer, but maintains his certification with the Town, has asked to purchase his gun, which is a tradition among retiring officers. Shannon Peterson moved to declare Officer Penland’s badge and gun surplus and turn it over to the Police Chief for presentation to him. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
4. Public Works Department – Assistant Public Works Director Jon England reported:
- a. An activity log was available for review.
 - b. McGill Associates is completing the engineering on the Peterson Trailer Park project. When engineering is complete, it can be put out for bid.
 - c. The loan from DEQ for the water treatment plant upgrades and the OMC pump station upgrade is moving forward.
 - d. The water and sewer fee schedule will need to be revisited again. New legislature requires that we follow specific rules that apply to user fees, impact fees, or whatever we choose to call them. Council permission was requested to involve the town attorney and an engineering firm as we work towards compliance; Council generally agreed.
 - e. Weapons of any kind are not allowed in the Town Hall; however we will need an ordinance in order to enforce. Judy Buchanan moved to direct Attorney Heather Hockaday to draft an ordinance to prohibit weapons at the Town Hall and the Burnsville Town Center. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
 - f. Council considered a Resolution “*Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing its Disposal,*” a copy of which is attached to these minutes and by reference made a part hereof. Shannon Peterson moved to adopt the aforesaid Resolution. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
 - g. Council considered Grant Project Ordinances for the OMC Pump Station Improvements and the Indian Trail/Meadow Road project. Russell Fox moved to adopt the aforesaid ordinances. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.
5. Town Center – Council was given a schedule for the month of May.

▪ **Council Members’ Reports**

- 1. Mayor Theresa Coletta
 - a. Resolution between Yancey County and the Town of Burnsville “*Supporting Beautification Enhancements along US Highway 19E Corridor through Yancey County.*” The Mayor advised this issue is still in the works.
 - b. ASU Project – Blue Ridge Motel. Council was reminded that approximately 20 Appalachian State University students would report on their findings for this project tomorrow. Because a quorum of Council members is expected, the meeting has been advertised.

- c. A SEARCH dinner gathering is planned for May 17th from 5:30 to 7:30 at the First Baptist Church. The program will be on the topic of “*Health Care and Your Community*” and Council was encouraged to attend.

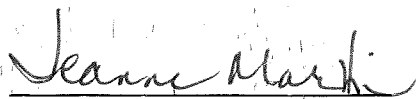
- **Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits**


1. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – Jamie McMahan reported:
 - a. It was pointed out that a summary of the Joint Work Session held April 16th with Yancey County, the EDC, and the Chamber of Commerce was available in Council packets. Mr. McMahan thanked Council members for participating.
 - b. The entire C-1 downtown district will have free wifi due to an agreement between Yancey County and Country Cable, who will provide bandwidth for the service.
 - c. Mercy Urgent Care will occupy a space in a facility next to the State Employees’ Credit Union in July, and will serve the public a total of 57 hours per week. Hours will be similar to the Weaverville facility, 7 days per week. Improvements to their space will be funded by a building reuse grant from the Department of Commerce.
 - d. According to the Department of Transportation, Burnsville is projected to gain population between 2020 and 2025.
 - e. Altec is continuing to grow. The company has had a large impact on Yancey County.
2. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available.
3. SEARCH – Emails, notices and minutes from the SEARCH meeting held March 20, 2018 were available for review.
4. Toe River Arts Council – Minutes and financials from meeting dated April 18, 2018 were available for review, as well as a spring update on the Burnsville Glass Gateways.
5. Information from the Yancey County Foodshed Project was available for review.
6. Yancey County Public Library – minutes from 2017 and the FY 2018-2019 budget were available for Council review.

- Closed Session to discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of business in the area served by this body and to establish or instruct the staff or agent concerning the negotiation of the price and terms of a contract concerning the acquisition of real property – Judy Buchanan moved to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(4) and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5) The motion was seconded by Shannon Peterson and carried.

No action was taken as a result of closed session.

- **Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, June 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of June. Shannon Peterson moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion and it carried by unanimous vote.


Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk


Theresa Coletta, Mayor