

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Thursday, June 6, 2019

On Thursday, June 6, 2019, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox, Isaac McCurry and Bunnie McIntosh present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Ricky Crout, Leslie Crowder, Jon England, Niles Howell, and Jeanne Martin; Town Attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Denise Collier, Michael Graf, Nicole Hairston, Jody Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Mike Hobson, Ginger Johnson, Schell McCall, former Mayor Danny McIntosh, Jamie McMahan, John Silver, Joyce Watts, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of June, 2019.

- **Public Comment** – No one asked to speak during the period set aside for public comment.

- **Adoption of Agenda** – Councilors were asked by the Mayor to consider renaming Item #12 from “Closed Session” to “Review Process for Open Position of Public Works Director.” Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the agenda as revised. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meeting:

1. Regular meeting held May 2, 2019

Bunnie McIntosh moved to approve minutes from the aforesaid meeting. Isaac McCurry seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Area-Wide Optimization Award (AWOP)** – Nicole Hairston, Public Water Division, Department of Environmental Quality, was on hand to present the *Area-Wide Optimization* award to Ricky Crout. Ms. Hairston commented that this 20 year old program gives awards to systems that exceed established standards. The award this year is particularly deserved given the amount of precipitation we have had in Burnsville in the past year. Ricky Crout recognized the other plant operators (Alan Boone, Shane Dale, Rick McIntyre and Daniel Silvers) for their roles in achieving this award. He also commended Council for providing the tools needed to produce clean water.

- **Visitor/Tourism Walking Map of Burnsville** – Joyce Watts and Denise Collier gave an update on the “Strolling Main Street” program. The walking map that was developed in 2018 and initially supported by the Town, the Chamber, and the EDC, has been an extremely helpful marketing tool. 2,500 more maps were printed through Travel and Tourism funding in April of this year, and were distributed to all the merchants in Burnsville, the Mars Hill Welcome Center, and have now been approved for placement in all nine welcome centers in the state. Maps were delivered in May to the Mt. Mitchell Golf Course, Albert’s, the Mt. Mitchell ranger station, and the Mt. Mitchell restaurant. Additional funding is needed to print additional maps to maintain this program. Council was asked to consider provide funding in an amount that would not exceed \$1,000 for this purpose in the event that Travel and Tourism money is not available. It was generally agreed that \$1,000 would be added into the 2019-2020 proposed budget.

▪ **South Main Street Closures:**

1. *Riddlefest* (June 22nd) – John Silvers was present to ask Council for consideration of a street closure for a “block party” event. Although he originally planned the block party for June 22nd, he changed plans and would like to hold the event on July 6th, after *Hometown Hero Day* ends and prior to fireworks, from 5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
2. *Homeplace Beerfest* (September 28th) – Mr. Silvers shared plans for the *Homeplace Beerfest* event, which is scheduled for September 28th.

Judy Buchanan moved to approve the closure of South Main on July 6th and September 28th for the aforesaid purposes. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.

3. *Farm to Fork* event (August 25th) – Michael Graf (TRACTOR) was present to share plans for the annual *Farm to Fork* event which will be held on August 25th. Plans include coordinating an inside/outside event which would include serving alcohol in the street. For this reason, Council was asked to consider closing South Main Street from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Theresa Coletta moved to close South Main Street on August 25th from 4:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Isaac McCurry seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Reappointment to ABC Board** – Council learned that R. L McIntosh’s appointment to the ABC Board has expired. Judy Buchanan moved to reappoint R. L. McIntosh to a three-year term on the ABC Board. Russell Fox seconded the motion. Bunnie McIntosh recused herself from vote. Motion carried.

▪ **Administrative Report** – Councilor Russell Fox reported:

1. Work session schedule – Council agreed to schedule a worksession for Wednesday, June 19, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.
2. Proposed agreement with Yancey County for lease of the Town Square – Councilor Russell Fox advised that he had spoken with the County Manager, but has heard nothing back. He told Council he would follow up on the issue.
3. Fire department building and finance update – Russell Fox advised that there is a little setback due to the need for an addendum to the Request for Bids to accommodate a problem with existing utilities, resulting in a delay getting the project out for bid. Mr. Fox agreed to continue to coordinate the project to completion.

▪ **Other**

1. Administration (Jeanne Martin)
 - a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated June 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 pointed out that there are ten written or oral agreements on delinquent 2018 taxes.
 - b. Finance Report – A finance report was furnished to Council prior to the meeting.
 - 1) Council reviewed the proposed contract with Young, Miller & Gillespie for the 2019-2020 audit. It was noted that the cost of the audit has not changed from last year. Bunnie McIntosh moved to approve the aforesaid contract. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
 - 2) The proposed FY 2019-2020 budget and message was available for review.

- 3) Council learned that the town had been a victim of bank fraud, which was caught by the bank and is currently under investigation. As a cautionary measure, software called "Positive Pay" is being utilized, at a cost of \$50 per month.
2. Fire Department (Chief Niles Howell)
 - a. A report of Fire Department activities was available for review.
 - b. We received a State Grant of \$30,000 towards the purchase of 28 sets of new turnout gear at a total cost of \$98,000, leaving the town portion at \$68,000.
 - c. Recent purchases include two 16' roof ladders at a cost of \$1,464.97. One is a combination ladder that will help prepare the department for this year's inspection.
 - d. Ladder testing is scheduled for 6/26/19.
 - e. Hydrant testing and apparatus pump testing is complete.
 - f. The NC OSFM 9E inspection is scheduled for 6/10/19.
 3. Police Department – Chief Brian Buchanan
 - a. The month's activity log was provided for review.
 - b. Councilors were advised that Officer Brandon Buchanan's brother had passed away.
 4. Public Works (Jon England)
 - a. Report on ongoing projects:
 - 1) Bojangles – The building is being downsized and new plans are forthcoming.
 - 2) Blue Mountain Storage – Plans have been approved by the Planning Board.
 - 3) Peterson Trailer Park Project – DEQ visited on 6/4 to close out this project.
 - 4) Indian Trail Project – The project is moving along.
 - 5) OMC Pump Station/WTP project – This project is moving ahead.
 - 6) The Automatic Meter Reader (AMR) project is ongoing; a large number of meters will be installed next week.
 - 7) Councilors were asked to consider declaring a 1986 Chevrolet truck surplus. The truck is used to plow snow, but the repair costs will outweigh the value. Russell Fox moved to adopt a *Resolution Declaring Certain Property Surplus and Authorizing Disposal*. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
 - 8) Zoning Compliance Issue – The dangerous portion of the old barn at Cherry Lane has been taken down, but there is a lot of material needing to be relocated. Once the lot is cleared the owner plans to build a new structure. Other locations in town have mowing issues. Councilor Bonnie McIntosh inquired about the old car wash on Pensacola Road. Mr. England said some improvements have been made, but he plans to revisit the issue.
 - 9) Several breaks in the sewer line on South Main Street have been identified. The town crew can replace a 30' section of line in hopes it will clear up the problem, but utilities will need to be marked beforehand, and South Main Street will need to be closed during replacement.
 - 10) The East Yancey Sewer Plant is beginning to deteriorate, and an employee may need to be dedicated to the plant to manage the operation, especially once Hickory Springs hooks on to the line.
 - 11) Mr. England discussed one crew worker who regularly addresses trouble calls after hours and is always first to respond in his own vehicle. Council directed that this employee be allowed to take a public works vehicle home each night to facilitate his responses.

5. Town Center (Chad Fox) – Councilors were updated on upcoming events during the month of June. The Luthier and Home Show events were very successful and well attended.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

1. Mayor Theresa Coletta

- a. Business Breakfast Update - The Mayor reported that the business breakfast meeting this month will be held on June 11th at 7:30 a.m. at the Town Center.
- b. NC DOT, regarding vehicles on East-West Main Street – Tabled
- c. July 6th Celebration – Hometown Hero Day will be held from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will be followed by the second season of *Summer Evenings on the Square*.

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

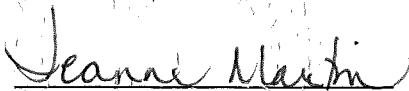
1. Economic Development Commission – Director Jamie McMahan gave an update on recent EDC activities:

- a) RAD DAWGS received an EDC grant. This funding program is working well.
- b) The last meeting on strategic planning has been held. The COG will now be working on a draft plan and present it at the end of the summer.
- c) Hotel update – Met with a real estate brokerage firm about marketing one particular property. An agreement should be signed this week, after which more information can be shared.

2. SEARCH – an update was available for review.

▪ **Review Process for Open Position of Public Works Director** – Councilors were advised that Shane Dale and Jon England have agreed to temporarily share the duties of the Public Works Director, and each will earn an additional \$8.00 per hour during this interim period while a search is being conducted for a permanent Public Works Director. Bunnie McIntosh moved to approve this interim plan. Isaac McCurry seconded the motion, which carried. It was suggested that a committee, comprised of Theresa Coletta, Bunnie McIntosh and Isaac McCurry, be appointed to review resumes, and Council was in agreement.

▪ **Next Regular Town Council Meeting and Public Hearing** – A special Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of July. Council member Russell Fox moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and approved by all members.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor