

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting – Thursday, June 7, 2018

On June 7, 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, Chad Fox, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton ; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Denise Collier, Rhonda Higgins, Claudia Honeycutt, Mike Hoskins, Ginger Johnson, Jamie McMahan, Phillis Pippins, 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, 2018.

Public Comment – No one spoke during the period set aside for public comment.

- **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 May 3, 2018
 2. Closed session held May 3, 2018
 3. Special meeting held May 4, 2018
 4. Closed session held May 9, 2018
 5. Special meeting held May 14, 2018
 6. Special meeting held May 15, 2018
 7. Special joint meeting held May 15, 2018 with Planning Board
 8. Special meeting held May 17, 2018

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

- **Words of Appreciation from Claudia Honeycutt** - Claudia Honeycutt, business owner of Mountain Time on Main Street, and also speaking for Coldwell Banker, with whom she shares the storefront space, thanked the town for the warm welcome as these new businesses were opened. As a gesture of appreciation, she said she was gifting the Town a weatherproof glider, a product she sells.

- **Public Hearing to revise Appalachian Regional Commission Micaville Water Line Extension Project, Grant #NC-18022** – Judy Buchanan moved to open the public hearing on the aforesaid matter. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried. Ronnie Tipton explained that the revision to the grant was necessary to reassign an expenditure of \$30,000 that is left in the budget to a line for grant administration by the High Country Council of Governments. No one asked to speak during the hearing. Bunnie McIntosh moved to close the hearing. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

In regular session, Russell Fox moved to moved to approve the aforesaid revision to Grant #NC-18022. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Planning Board Report** - Chairman Harrison Tyner was unavailable to report, but minutes from the Planning Board's joint meeting with Council on May 15, 2018 were available for review.
- **Administrative Report** – Russell Fox reported:
 1. There will be no work sessions during the month of June, 2018.
 2. Status of East Yancey Sewer Plant – Attorney Donnie Laws has drafted an amended option to purchase which will be turned over to Heather Hockaday for review. Russell Fox moved to authorize the Mayor and Finance Officer to execute an amendment to the Town's option for the purchase of the East Yancey Sewer District plant once the document has undergone legal review; and further authorize the release of the remaining \$85,000 pursuant to the agreement. Judy Buchanan 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 June 5, 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 June 5, 2018 was furnished to Council.
 - 2) An updated budget was available for review that highlighted changes since the May meeting.
 2. Fire Department – Chief Niles Howell was absent from the meeting, but Russell Fox reported:
 - a) The department's activity summary for the month was available for review, as well as emails from the USDA concerning the proposed loan for the new fire station. All information has been received from the Town of Burnsville in support of our loan application.
 3. Police Department - Chief Brian Buchanan reported:
 - a. Council reviewed the department's activity log for the month of May, 2018
 - b. Councilors heard the open position in the police department has been filled with a qualified individual who has 7 years experience.
 - c. Available for consideration was a proposed ordinance, "*Prohibiting Deadly Weapons in Burnsville Town Hall and Burnsville Town Center,*" which was prepared by Attorney Heather Hockaday. It was clarified that gun shows can still be held at the Town Center. Bunnie McIntosh moved to adopt the aforesaid ordinance. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.
 - d. The Mayor discussed pedestrian issues, mentioning that a shopkeeper in town has almost been hit by a vehicle on two occasions. Chief Buchanan said the day shift officers have been spoken to about the need for extra vigilance.
 4. Public Works Department – Public Works Director Ronnie Tipton reported:
 - a. An activity log was available for review.
 - b. Councilors heard of new legislation that deals with the charge for and use of System Development Funds (user or conservation fees). In order for the town to continue to collect revenues from user fees (currently \$150,000 to \$175,000/year) we must comply with the legislation. The first step towards compliance is the preparation of an SDF analysis by an engineering firm; McGill has submitted a cost estimate for this service.

- c. FEMA funds have been applied for in the amount of \$70,000 for infrastructure damage created by significant rain and flooding.
- 5. Town Center – Council was given a schedule for the month of June. Public events include Darren Nicholson, an Art Guild show, and Riddlefest. Aside from public events, 28 separate rentals have been booked for the month.

- **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.*" Jamie McMahan said the County is still considering the issue, but has budgetary concerns over future maintenance.
 - b. Business breakfast update – this project is cosponsored by the Town, the EDC and Mayland Community College. A survey has been circulated among business owners and the survey results will be shared at the next meeting. Joyce Watts distributed the revised "walking maps" of Downtown Burnsville.
 - c. *Summer Evenings on Town Square* (July into September) – The Mayor listed the businesses that will be cosponsoring the summer events. Leftover funds will be applied towards the purchase of a sound system for use on the Square.
- 2. Trip to Raleigh – The Mayor advised that the Town Council attended the legislative dinner that the NC League of Municipalities held in Raleigh the end of May.

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

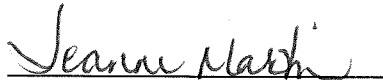
- 1. Yancey County Economic Development Commission – Jamie McMahan reported:
 - a. He was in Raleigh at the same time Council was there last month and assisted with the process of being reinstated in the Small Town Main Street program.
 - b. The urgent care project is moving forward, with projected opening date of late July.
 - c. Fiber installation for downtown wifi is underway.
 - d. Information on three business prospects for Burnsville will be shared in the near future.
 - e. The Yancey County unemployment figure is 3.6 currently, much improved from when we were in the top ¼ of counties in the state for unemployment.
 - f. It is projected that Yancey County will soon be designated Tier 2 due to changing demographics and legislation.
 - 2. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available.
 - 3. Parkway Playhouse – minutes from 2017 and 2018, as well as the budget and audit of the non-profit were available for review.
 - 4. SEARCH – minutes from meeting held May 1, 2018 were available.
 - 5. Toe River Arts Council – Denise Cook provided an update of TRAC projects, mentioning it would be her last official visit after serving 30 years as Director. She introduced the new Director, Nealy Andrews. She said that dedication of the art project at the western gateway is scheduled for July 27th and described the area that will need a street closure during the event. Russell Fox moved to support the street closure as proposed. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.
- Closed Session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to discuss the settlement of a claim regarding right-of-way. Judy Buchanan moved to enter closed session for the aforesaid purpose. Shannon Peterson seconded the motion, which carried.

Upon return to open session Council member Judy Buchanan made the following motion:


That council directs Attorney Hockaday to inform Mr. Smith's attorney Charlie Hunt the Town will be agreeable to an easement in gross for the roadway leading into the Town's property on Bolen's Creek. That the Town will share in the cost of the bridge repair as previously approved. That the agreement is contingent upon getting the other adjoining property owners to agree to the easement as well and the Town administrator and public works director should be involved in the repairs of the bridge to the extent that it can be determined the new construction is suitable for the Town's use. And further that Public Works Director, Ronnie Tipton be authorized to approach the adjoining property owners about joining in the execution of the easement.

The motion was seconded by Russell Fox and unanimously approved by the members.

Next Regular Town Council Meeting – The next Town Council (special) meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of July. Council member Shannon Peterson made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and approved by all members.



Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



Theresa Coletta, Mayor