

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL and BURNSVILLE PLANNING BOARD

Special Joint Meeting

Tuesday, May 15, 2018

The Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox, and Bunnie McIntosh present, and the Burnsville Planning Board, with Chairman Harrison Tyner, Woody Ryan, Randy Banks, Jerri Storie, Armin Wessel, and Greg Yuziuk present, held a special joint meeting on Tuesday, May 15, 2018, at the Town Hall. Also in attendance were staff members Jon England, Chad Fox, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and several members of the public. The Mayor, who presided, called the meeting to order, stating that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss and possibly take action on topics related to downtown revitalization.

Caty Carlin, a downtown merchant who recently completed training as an abatement specialist, presented photos of various properties in the C-1 and C-2 districts in Burnsville that could be considered nuisances and in need of attention due to their condition. She led a discussion on possible options for abatement, and indicated an interest in participating in the process.

Planning Board Chairman Harrison Tyner said his Board is aware of these problems that can negatively impact other properties, and will need to establish definitions for blighted, abandoned, and neglected properties and establish standards. The Town Council will then need to set fines.

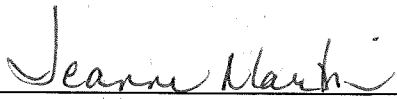
Town attorney Heather Hockaday said the process will be time consuming, labor intense, and costly. She advised that there already are State laws that could be followed, and provided a chart from the UNC School of Government that references statutory authority on these issues. Municipalities are also authorized to enact ordinances, but the Town would first need to decide on the level of control in which it has an interest. Harrison Tyner said the Planning Board would only be interested in working on commercial properties.

Planning Board member Armin Wessel suggested that a photo gallery of what appears to be below-standard buildings could be compiled as a starting point for discussion. Judy Buchanan moved that a team be formed for this purpose, comprised of Catie Carlin, Bunnie McIntosh, and Armin Wessel, and the Town pay for the associated printing costs. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

Harrison Tyner said the Planning Board will need professional assistance such as that received several years ago from Planner Ron Hancock. Heather Hockaday agreed to look at resources that may be available through the School of Government. Russell Fox asked whether sample ordinances from other municipalities could be obtained and tweaked.

Heather Hockaday agreed to meet with the Planning Board on vacant storefronts and maintenance issues in the C-1, C-2, and C-3 zoning districts. Judy Buchanan made a motion for Council to revisit minimum standards adopted in March of 2000 with Heather Hockaday. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeanne Martin", written over a horizontal line.

Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk



A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Theresa Coletta", written over a horizontal line.

Theresa Coletta, Mayor