

**BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Special Meeting – Thursday, August 9, 2018**  
**(To conduct regular business for the month of August, 2018)**

On August 9, 2018, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox, and Bunnie McIntosh, present, held a special meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall for the purpose of conducting regular business for the month of August, 2018. Councilor Shannon Peterson was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were town staff members Brian Buchanan, Denise Collier, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, Mike Graf, Niles Howell, Jeanne Martin and Ronnie Tipton; town attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Elaine Boone, Chuck Carlson, Chris Carter, Rhonda Higgins, Mike Ledford, Julian McMillan, and others. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of August, 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 amended, to omit Item #4 (Safety Concerns on Azalea Lane) and Item #9 (Planning Board report) due to the absence of scheduled speakers. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the following meetings:

1. Special meeting held June 26, 2018

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

- **USDA Loan Application update** – Mike Ledford (USDA) spoke about concerns he has with our application to finance the fire department building project. Niles Howell explained that USDA financing is attractive due to its terms and affordable rates. He said the Fire Department could afford payments on the \$2.596 million project. Mike Ledford advised that in the 5<sup>th</sup> year of the loan it is projected that the General Fund Reserve will begin covering expenses. He said the USDA will not allow the Town to move forward toward a negative trend, and would expect an increase in revenues for favorable consideration of the loan.

It was agreed to hold a work session with Council, the Fire Department, and Heather Hockaday at 4:30 p.m. on August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Town Hall to sort out this issue.

- **Farm to Fork Dining Event** – Michael Graf, speaking on behalf of TRACTOR, gave details on this upcoming event, which is a major fund raiser for local farmers.
- **Public Art Board Appointment** – This issue was tabled due to the absence of Public Art Board Chairman Armin Wessel.
- **Old Timey Day Safety Concerns** – Elaine Boone, (Yancey History Association), advised that two activities planned for Old Timey Day which caused safety concerns will not be part of the event.

Although this settled the issue, Attorney Heather Hockaday reminded Council that the Town's liability carrier will provide coverage for elected officials and town staff, but not others outside the organization.

- **Administrative Report** – Russell Fox reported:
  1. The only work session scheduled for the month of August, 2018 will be held on August 14<sup>th</sup> to continue discussions on the Fire Department.
  2. Crafts Fair update and financial concerns – participating staff members were commended for their contributions to this event, but there are concerns about the escalating costs to provide these services. The Chamber of Commerce has been asked to consider sharing in some of these direct costs, but we have had no response to date. This issue will be followed up by Russell Fox and Ronnie Tipton.
  
- **Other**
  1. Administration (Jeanne Martin)
    - a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated August 1, 2018 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway, with every delinquent account receiving attention.
    - b. Order to Collect Taxes – Judy Buchanan moved to order the Tax Collector to collect taxes for 2018. Theresa Coletta seconded the motion, which carried.
    - c. Resolution Authorizing Signatories for CDBG-Infrastructure Project 17-I-2957 - Council reviewed the aforesaid Resolution, which names Leslie Crowder, Jeanne Martin, Theresa Coletta and Judy Buchanan as authorized signatories for CDBG Infrastructure Project 17-I-2957. After discussion, Bunnie McIntosh moved to adopt the Resolution. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
    - d. Project Ordinance – Water Treatment Plant Improvements (Clean Water State Revolving Loan and Grant) – Council reviewed the project ordinance; Russell Fox moved to adopt the aforesaid Ordinance. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
  
  2. Fire Department (Chief Niles Howell)
    - a. An *Informational Meeting for the Public on Plans to Build a Building for Use by the Fire Department* was held. Information was shared with those present concerning the town's application for funding to construct a building for the Burnsville Fire Department using funds from a USDA, Rural Development Community Facilities grant. The project and the use of the loan funds were discussed. Fire Chief Niles Howell provided Councilors with a complete update on the building plans. The floor was opened for questions. It was noted that the architectural firm that was chosen has experience in fire department construction and will provide administrative services for the project.
    - b. A report of Fire Department of activities was available for review.
  
  3. Police Department (Chief Brian Buchanan)
    - a. There was a discussion about the practice of closing the entire Town Square to traffic to accommodate special events.
    - b. Councilors were asked to consider an Ordinance for street closure to accommodate Old Timey Days. Theresa Coletta moved to adopt the aforesaid Ordinance. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

4. Public Works (Ronnie Tipton)
  - a. With regard to DEQ grants, Mr. Tipton reported that the Town has not received any requests from Limited English Proficient (LEP) persons in the past six months for assistance with the translations of the program materials.
  - b. We will be advertising for bids for construction at the Peterson Trailer Park this month. This project is moving along quickly.
  - c. The Micaville Elementary School is on line with water and sewer service. Taylor Togs has connected to water, and sewer will be connected in two weeks. Hickory Springs has had discussions with Jeff Reynolds and is still interested.
  - d. We have had numerous complaints over the course of 8 or 9 years about our policy on seasonal service, particularly as it relates to the reconnect fee. The rate and fee schedule includes a reconnect fee for seasonal and repetitive non-paying residents. Other utilities have been researched and it appears most do not charge anything for a reconnection with the suspension of service requested by the customer. French Broad charges ½ the fee in response to a reconnect requested by the customer and full fee for a non-payment reconnection. An option for a fair resolution could be that the customer is charged \$50 after completion of a request form which includes the date to turn off and approximate date to reconnect. This would only apply if service is to be discontinued for two months or longer, and would be invalid after disconnection for over a year or longer, at which point the full fee of \$100 would apply. There is no need to amend the ordinance, just the rate and fee schedule.
  - e. Heather Hockaday asked to be kept apprised of the status on taking ownership of the East Yancey sewer plant because of the title work she will be undertaking. Ronnie Tipton advised that ownership won't be any time in the near future.
  
5. Burnsville Town Center (Chad Fox) – The Town Center is currently in the middle of a very popular children's consignment sale that is a 5 day rental for us. Doyle Lawson will be the next concert, followed by several expos.

▪ **Council Members' Reports**

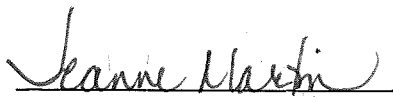
1. Mayor Theresa Coletta
  - a. Update on glass art at the gateways – the project has been delayed a couple of months.
  - b. Business breakfast update – the next meeting will be Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in the Town Hall.
  - c. *Summer Evenings on Town Square* (July into September) – The band "Crocodile Smile" will play on August 31<sup>st</sup>. The Independence Day program was very successful.
  - d. Denise Collier spoke about the need for a second printing on the downtown business maps in time for the Crafts Fair. The EDC and Chamber have committed to reprinting at \$260 plus tax each. Theresa Coletta moved to commit to spending \$260 for this purpose. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.

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

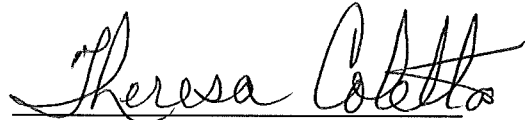
1. Burnsville ABC Budget for FY 2018 – 2019 was available for review.
2. Economic Development Commission – In the absence of Director Jamie McMahan, the Mayor reported:
  - a. The EDC and the Chamber of Commerce are collaborating to shoot a commercial;

- b. It was just announced that Yancey County is being awarded \$600,000 for completion of the installation of the East Yancey sewer system; and
  - c. There will be a ribbon cutting on Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup> from 4 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Mercy Urgent Care.
3. High Country Council of Governments ~ minutes and financials were available for review. The annual banquet is coming up and RSVPs must be returned before August 24<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Regular Town Council Meeting** – The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., at the Burnsville Town Hall to consider regular business for the month of September. 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