

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Special Meeting – Thursday, September 5, 2019

On Thursday, June 27, 2019, the Burnsville Town Council, with members Mayor Theresa Coletta, Judy Buchanan, Russell Fox, and Bunnie McIntosh present, held a regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Hall. Councilor Isaac McCurry was absent from the meeting. Also in attendance were town staff members Leslie Crowder, Niles Howell, Dillon Lundy, and Jeanne Martin; Town Attorney Heather Hockaday; and visitors Kathy Amos, Jonathan Bennett, Jody Higgins, Rhonda Higgins, Mike Hoskins, and Angie Weatheman. The Mayor, who presided, stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct regular business for the month of September, 2019. She welcomed the Town's new Public Works Director, Dillon Lundy, who came to Burnsville from Iowa.

- **Public Comment** – No one asked to speak during the period set aside for Public Comment.
- **Adoption of Agenda** – It was noted that consideration of closed session minutes held August 8, 2019 were listed on the agenda, but were unavailable for review. Bunnie McIntosh moved to adopt the agenda, which was revised to delete consideration of the August 8, 2019 closed session minutes. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Consideration of Minutes** – Available for review were minutes from the Regular meeting held August 8, 2019 – Judy Buchanan moved to approve minutes from the aforesaid meeting as written. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- **Water Rates – Jean Edwards (Marie Barnes)** – In the absence of the scheduled speakers, this issue was not discussed.
- **Cane River Sewer Project** – Kathy Amos, Superintendent of Yancey County Schools, and Angie Letterman, Chair of the Yancey County School Board, presented an appeal for a waiver of system development fees (SDFs) incurred during the connection of Blue Ridge Elementary School to the town's sewer system. Councilors were told a waiver could be considered an investment in the long-range impact the school will have on the community, and will allow the school system to save money towards other capital projects.

Mayor Coletta advised that the \$14,354 system development fees are only 25% of the \$56,000 allowable charge. She explained that these revenues are set aside for capital improvements to the town's essential infrastructure. Bunnie McIntosh and Judy Buchanan agreed that the town must hold the standard of collecting SDFs from every customer, including schools, churches and miscellaneous non-profits. Russell Fox pointed out that town staff and the town attorney spent countless hours working on the project. Council agreed the newly-built Blue Ridge Elementary School is a beautiful facility, but it was their consensus to deny the request for a waiver of system development fees.

- **Asset Management Plan Update** – Jay Meliski, with McGill Associates, addressed Council about the \$500,000 Meadow Road waterline grant application. He advised the town would need to update the 2016 Asset Management Plan to secure a more favorable position on the application list. Judy Buchanan moved to approve an amendment to update the town's Asset Management Plan. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

- **Options for Designations of Bulding Inspectors** – There was a lengthy discussion about various options for addressing the town’s need for a building inspector. One option considered was an Interlocal Agreement with Yancey County at a cost of \$40,608, which was rejected by consensus. Another option discussed was to enter into a service contract with County Building Inspector Jon England at \$21/hour. Judy Buchanan moved to authorize Attorney Heather Hockaday to negotiate a service contract for the town’s building inspections with Jon England. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

There was further discussion about the position of Fire Marshall for in-town fire inspections. It was noted that the Yancey County Fire Marshall, Neill McCurry, is retiring in December, and may consider a contract to continue inspecting for the town. Heather Hockaday agreed to explore options.

- **Family-Friendly Events on Burnsville Town Square** – The Mayor led a discussion of Council’s expectations during town-sponsored events. In order to control activities during such events, Council agreed that private events should not be permitted to piggy-back with a town event in the future.

- **Other**

1. Administration (Jeanne Martin)

- a. Pursuant to GS 105-369(a), *Tax Delinquent Report* dated September 3, 2019 was provided as an update of uncollected revenues. A variety of collection efforts are underway, with every delinquent account receiving attention.
- b. Finance Report – A finance report was furnished to Council prior to the meeting. Leslie Crowder presented a Budget Amendment to appropriate funds for the following expenditures:
 - \$34,050 – to correct an inappropriate charge to Powell for street improvements
 - \$7,500 – for engineering review of a subdivision ordinance
 - \$4,931 – payout of vacation balance to Danny McIntosh

Bunnie McIntosh moved to approve the Budget Amendment as presented. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and carried.

2. Fire Department (Chief Niles Howell)

- a. Operations:
 - 1) A report of Fire Department activities was available for review.
 - 2) New turnout gear has arrived, and application has been made for the \$30,000 in grant funding from the State Fire grant.
 - 3) Hose testing is being done prior to winter weather.
- b. Building project report – The low bid on the project was \$2.379 million, which has been cut \$375,000 to now under \$2 million. The committee will meet next week to work on the \$180,000 that still needs to be cut. The public hearing on financing of the project will be cancelled pending firm figures.

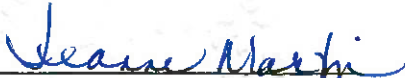
3. Police Department

- a. Council was told that street closures to be considered in the future will be the Toy Run and Halloween.

- b. There will be a *Shop with a Cop* fund raiser dinner at the Town Center on October 21st; 100% of collections will go to the charity. Council was asked to consider a donation towards the event. Judy Buchanan moved to designate funds equal to the cost of the facility rental to *Shop with a Cop*. Bunnie McIntosh seconded the motion, which carried.
- 4. Public Works – Dillon Lundy, Public Works Director, reported that he has spent the past few days meeting with the crew and acquainting himself with the operation.
- 5. Town Center – There was an update on events planned for the months of September and October. Council was advised that a new website has been launched for the Town. This is a project that has occupied Chad Fox for the past several months.
- **Council Members' Reports**
 - 1. Mayor Theresa Coletta
 - a. Church bells will be rung at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, September 8th, in commemoration of the signing of the U. S. Constitution.
 - b. A replica of the Snapdragon Warship that was donated by Greg and Hiroko Yuziuk is on display on the first floor of the Town Hall.
 - 2. Other Council Members – Bunnie McIntosh commented on the work being done to create a job description for a Town Administrator. Committee meetings are scheduled for September 16th and September 23rd.
- **Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits**
 - 1. Economic Development Commission – Director Jamie McMahan was not in attendance at the meeting. A written report was available, a copy of which is attached to these minutes.
 - 2. High Country Council of Governments – minutes and financials were available.
- **Closed Session** – Judy Buchanan moved to enter closed session pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with the town attorney and N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(6) to consider a personnel matter. Russell Fox seconded the motion, which carried.

No action was taken as a result of closed session.

- **Next Town Council Meeting** – A special Town Council meeting will be held on October 3, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., to conduct regular business for the month of October. Mayor Theresa Coletta moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Judy Buchanan and approved by all members.


 Jeanne Martin, Town Clerk


 Theresa Coletta, Mayor