

BURNSVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Special for Regular Meeting - Wednesday, May 4, 2022, 6pm
Burnsville Town Center

On Wednesday, May 4, 2022, the Burnsville Town Council with Mayor Russell Fox, members Judy Buchanan, Denise Collier, Randy Ollis, and Bill Wheeler present, held a special for regular meeting at the Burnsville Town Center. Also in attendance were town staff members Heather Hockaday, Niles Howell, Brian Buchanan, Leslie Crowder, Chad Fox, and Corbin Cooper; and visitors, Danny McIntosh, Katie Ledford, Joe Ventrice, Richard Gierloff, Grace Collins, Melanie StJean, Lucy Doll and Jim Parlier among others. Mayor Fox, who presided, called the meeting to order at 6pm and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to conduct business for the month of May 2022. The meeting was streamed live for the public on the Burnsville Town Center's YouTube Channel.

Adoption of Agenda - Councilor Judy Buchanan moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Councilor Denise Collier seconded the motion, which carried.

Public Comment

- Joe Ventrice of the American Red Cross updated the Council on the initial planning stages of a battle of the badges blood drive, a local shelter site survey, and a need for volunteers.
- Danny McIntosh mentioned an anecdotal survey concluding that we have an influx of new visitors and residents from the west. He said that Lake Mead issues show how important water issues are around the world. He also reminded the Council and staff to remember how important Bolens Creek is as a water source.
- Lucy Doll mentioned previous conversations with Town Manager Heather Hockaday and French Broad, asking who controls the streetlight by her house and how to reduce its brightness. Mrs. Hockaday said that a conversation had not happened with the utility and reminded her that the pole and its maintenance are controlled by French Broad, not the Town. Mayor Fox said that if conversations with French Broad did not help, she should let the Town know and they would try to meet with French Broad and find a solution.

Consideration of Minutes - Minutes from a regular meeting held on April 7, 2022, a closed session held on April 7, 2022, and a budget work session held on April 25, 2022 were considered. Councilor Randy Ollis made a motion to approve all minutes as read. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.

Public Hearings - There were no public hearings.

Presentations

- Police Week and Public Works Week Proclamations - Mayor Fox read a proclamation proclaiming May 15-21 National Police week urging all citizens to join the Council in commemorating police officers, past and present. Mayor Fox read another proclamation proclaiming May 15-21 Public Works Week urging all citizens to reflect on the importance of the contributions our public works professionals and employees make to protecting our community's health, safety, and quality of life.

Manager's Update - Heather Hockaday

Projects update - Town Manager Heather Hockaday updated the Council on several projects. Four grants for water and sewer projects and one application to transition a water treatment plant loan into a grant were submitted to DEQ's Department of Water Infrastructure. The projects include repair of the East Main sewer interceptor, replacement and upgrades to the Baker's Creek pump station, upgrades to the raw water intake on Pensacola and repairs to

the Bolens creek line, and replacement of the 1915 water main on East and West Main Streets. She said that the applications have been sent and received, with a response expected in July.

Mrs. Hockaday also updated the Council on a grant from Dogwood Health Trust, in partnership with Yancey County, that has already been received. The grant would pay for studies to update the asset management plan and capital improvement plan, create a master plan for all of the infrastructure and future needs. She said that the studies would offer a great deal of value in helping to plan for the future. The engineers project the documents to be complete in about six months.

FEMA - Projects are progressing and have moved from the mitigation phase to the environmental phase, with the payment phase being next.

WWTP estimate - The Town is still waiting on an estimate for a rehab of the wastewater treatment plant from WithersRavenel. A meeting with the engineer will occur on the following day.

Tax Report - Mrs. Hockaday reported that collections continue to trickle in and that she has been in touch with a firm that helps with collections at no cost to the Town.

Clerk's Update - Chad Fox

Bike and Pedestrian Steering Committee update - Town Clerk Chad Fox updated the Council on an upcoming virtual meeting of the committee on May 16 where they are expected to review a draft scoring approach and refine a table of projects.

The date of May 9th was set for a May budget work session.

First Friday Market - Mr. Fox informed the council of a meeting with organizer Melaie StJean, saying she answered all questions and appears to have everything well planned. Bill Wheeler made a motion to approve the First Friday Market on the Square. Judy Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.

Department Updates

1. Public Works - Mrs. Hockaday reported for Public Works Director Shane Dale, saying that the gear drive for the .5 wastewater treatment plant has been ordered.

The third pump at the OMC pump station has also been installed. The next part would be financing a connector line to the Yancey County wastewater line, diverting flow to the East Yancey wastewater treatment plant.

2. Finance - Finance Officer Leslie Crowder referenced, a previously provided, budget vs. actual dated March 31, 2022 and overtime report then offered to answer any questions.

Budget amendment - Mrs. Crowder said that she was waiting on more information on the amendment and would need to table it until the next meeting.

Budget public hearing - Randy Ollis moved to have the public hearing on the FY 22-23 budget at the June regular meeting of the Burnsville Town Council. Denise Collier seconded the motion, which carried. All were in agreement.

Cost of living adjustment discussion - Mrs. Crowder reported current COLA numbers that were much higher than normal. She reviewed a chart with options for COLA employee raises, in combination with a one-time bonus. There was a brief conversation and it was decided that they would discuss it further at the budget work session on May 9th.

Required ARPA report - Mrs. Crowder reported that after months of preparation, the first ARPA report was successfully submitted.

3. Fire Department - Fire Chief Niles Howell presented a call summary report, with around 30 calls for the month. He then invited the Council to an open house at the new building, scheduled for June 11th from 11am-2pm.

Chief Howell said that he has applied for a COVID grant that he expects to receive, another supplemental grant he is waiting to hear about, and a state grant for equipment that he will be notified about in May.

4. Police Department - Police Chief Brian Buchanan presented call logs and mentioned the Fit Families 5k race over the weekend, saying it went smoothly. He thanked Niles Howell and Emergency Management Director Jeff Howell for all of their assistance. He said that the department has finished qualifying, completing firearm training for another year.

Discussion of Noise Ordinance - Mr. Buchanan explained the current ordinance and made suggestions on ways that it could be updated and mentioned several factors that the Council may want to consider. Mayor Fox asked Mr. Buchanan to look into it further and present options to the Council for possible changes.

Traffic light at S. Main St and BFD update - Mr. Buchanan updated the Council on a conversation with Anna Henderson from NCDOT. She said that the redlights were operating independently before making them change more quickly. Recently they were changed to work in sequence so that cars on the four-lane have a better chance of hitting all of the lights green. The consequence of this is traffic on the side streets can back up.

Mr. Buchanan also discussed, with Ms. Henderson, an emergency light at the four-lane for the fire department. She said it was possible, but since it was for the fire department, they would have to pay for it. She said that very early estimates, based on other current projects, would be around \$100,000 with a 5 year plan.

5. Zoning/Code Enforcement - Zoning Administrator Brian Buchanan reported that construction on the new Taco Bell could start any time and that several discussions have been had for new projects.
6. Burnsville Town Center - Town Center Manager Corbin Cooper reported a consistent number of rentals for the next few months and the expectation of having at least one live music event each month through the summer.

Council Members' Reports

- Denise Collier reported that the local FBLA had eight students achieve eligibility to compete nationally. She informed everyone of a fundraiser to help students cover the cost of the trip.

Updates from Advisory Boards and Non-Profits

- Planning Board
 - Consideration of applicants for alternate vacancy - Judy Buchanan moved to appoint Richard Gierloff to fill the alternate vacancy on the Burnsville Planning Board. Randy Ollis seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Economic Development Commission - There was no report.

- Yancey/Burnsville Chamber of Commerce - There was no report.

- High Country Council of Governments - Minutes were made available previously.

Closed Session - There was no closed session.

Next Town Council Meeting - June 2, 2022, 6pm

Adjourn - With there being no further business, Judy Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 pm. Bill Wheeler seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.



J. Chad Fox, Town Clerk



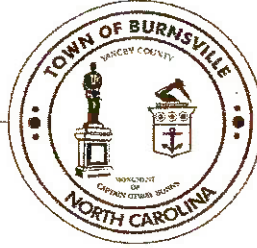


T. Russell Fox, Mayor

Russell Fox
Mayor
Heather Hockaday
Town Manager/Attorney
Chad Fox
Town Clerk

Town of Burnsville

Councilors:
Judy Buchanan
Denise Collier
Randy Ollis
Bill Wheeler



National Police Week Proclamation

May 15–21, 2022

WHEREAS, the Town of Burnsville Town Council supports and recognizes the vital role law enforcement officers have within our communities. These servants and their families make enormous personal sacrifices but have answered their community's call to serve in a profession that comes with inherit danger and at any given time may place them in harms way to secure the well-being of others; and

WHEREAS, being a law enforcement officer is a noble and honorable profession. It is a profession which many cannot do or will never attempt due to the rigors of the profession. Law enforcement officers must be highly trained and appropriately resourced to meet the challenges of today. This Council will, on behalf of the citizens of the Town of Burnsville, continue to support and appropriately resource the Burnsville Police Department to meet the growing needs of our Town; and

WHEREAS, as we state our support for our law enforcement officers, they know, and it is expected they daily build relationships and trust with the residents they serve, they must do so with honor and integrity. Daily protecting the innocent, aiding those in need with dignity and compassion, and performing their duties in a fair and impartial manner. They must perform their duties in keeping with the highest law enforcement standards and remain faithful to their solemn oath;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor T. Russell Fox and the Burnsville Town Council do hereby designate the week May 15–21, 2022, as National Police Week; I urge all citizens to join in commemorating police officers, past and present, who by their faithful and loyal devotion to their responsibilities have rendered a dedicated service to their communities and, in doing so, have established for themselves an enviable and enduring reputation for preserving the rights and security of all citizens.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Burnsville to be affixed, this the 4th day of May, 2022.

TOWN SEAL:

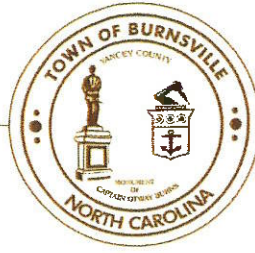


T. Russell Fox, Mayor

Russell Fox
Mayor
Heather Hockaday
Town Manager/Attorney
Chad Fox
Town Clerk

Town of Burnsville

Councilors:
Judy Buchanan
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Randy Ollis
Bill Wheeler



National Public Works Week Proclamation

May 15–21, 2022

WHEREAS, public works professionals focus on infrastructure, facilities, emergency management, and services that are of vital importance to sustainable and resilient communities and the public health, high quality of life, and well-being of the people of the Town of Burnsville; and,

WHEREAS, these infrastructures, facilities, and services could not be provided without the dedicated efforts of public works professionals, who are responsible for rebuilding, improving, and protecting our community's streets, water supply, water treatment system, solid waste system, public buildings, and other structures and facilities essential for our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest for the citizens, civic leaders, and children in the Town of Burnsville to gain knowledge and maintain ongoing interest and understanding of the importance of public works employees and public works programs in their respective communities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that I, Mayor T. Russell Fox and the Burnsville Town Council do hereby designate the week May 15–21, 2022, as National Public Works Week; I urge all citizens to reflect on the importance of the contributions our public works professionals and employees make to protecting our community's health, safety, and quality of life.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the Town of Burnsville to be affixed, this the 4th day of May, 2022.

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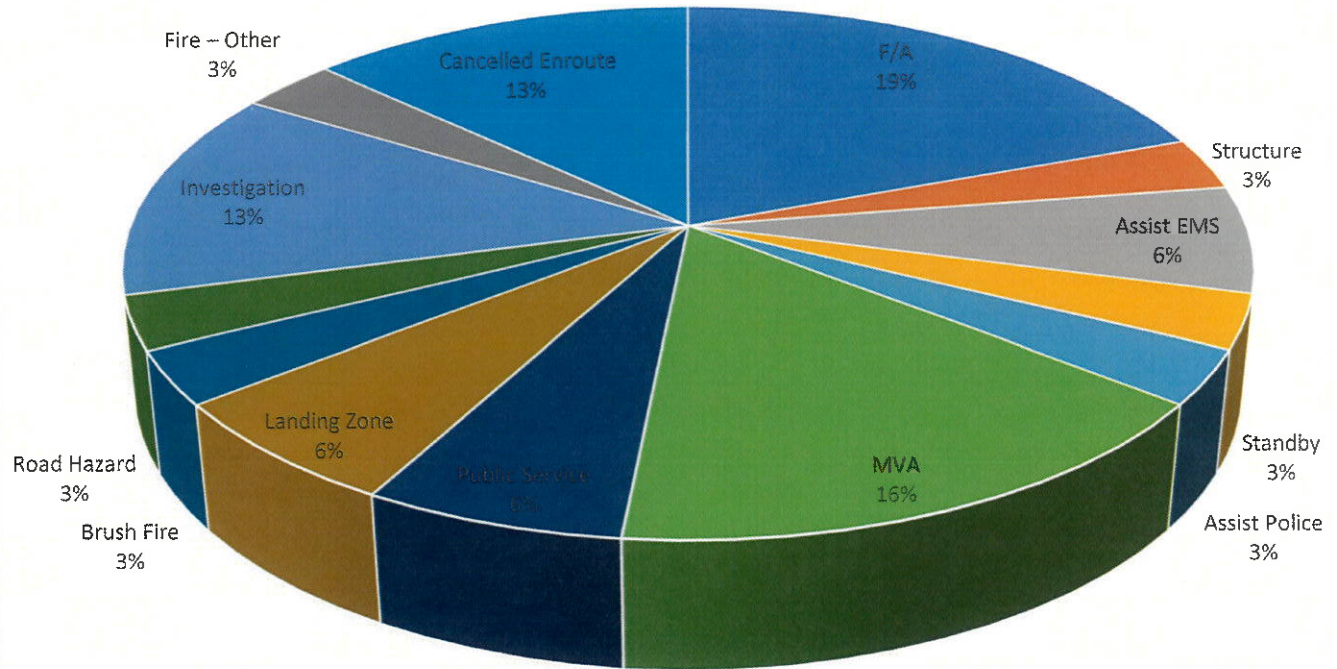
T. Russell Fox, Mayor



5/4/2022

Fire Department Monthly Call Summary for April 2022

F/A	6
Structure	1
Assist EMS	2
Standby	1
Assist Police	1
MVA	5
Public Service	2
Drill	
Hazmat	
Landing Zone	2
Brush Fire	1
Road Hazard	1
Investigation	4
Tree Down	
Bomb Scare	
CO Alarm	
Smoke Det. Alarm	
Stranded Motorist	
Search	
Vehicle Fire	
Fire – Other	1
Rescue/Extrication	
Cancelled Enroute	4



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Mutual Aid Calls - 9

Total For Month- 31

Total For Year - 152

COLA options and what they would cost per fund

(Cost of Living Adjustment)

The reason for more discussion on COLA this year is that we had normally gone with a Dept of Labor website, but this year it is saying 3.2, and the Social Security one is 5.9%. Just thought a little more information would be good to have this year.

General Fund	2.00%	2.50%	2.70%	3.00%	3.20%
Total cost	\$ 16,686.00	\$ 20,964.00	\$ 22,646.00	\$ 24,951.00	\$ 26,614.00

(Including benefits)

At this time there is around a surplus in the General Fund of around \$110,000 that amount will decrease depending on which option you choose. We had also talked about doing a smaller increase and doing a \$ 500 bonus which would cost close to \$7,588.

Both funds currently have 14 employees, with some being split between funds.
We have built in for a new employee in the water/sewer fund so they will have 15.

Water/Sewer	2.00%	2.50%	2.70%	3.00%	3.20%
Total cost	\$ 19,390.00	\$ 24,238.00	\$ 26,177.00	\$ 29,086.00	\$ 31,024.00

(Including benefits)

Workers in this fund make \$15.75 -\$24.34 hourly.

Before the rate increase there is surplus of around \$121,925.00 in the Water/sewer Fund. That amount will decrease depending on which COLA option you choose. We had also talked about doing a smaller increase and doing a \$ 500 bonus which would cost close to \$7,588.