

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
June 8, 2021

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street Blowing Rock, NC. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Sue Sweeting and Council Members Albert Yount, David Harwood, Doug Matheson, Virginia Powell, Town Manager Shane Fox, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Planning and Inspections Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Aaron Miller, Finance Officer Nicole Norman and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner who recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mayor Sellers verified attendance via roll call.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTE APPROVAL

Council Member Powell made a motion to approve the regular and closed session minutes from the May 11, 2021, meeting, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to approve the May 27, 2021, Budget Work Session meeting, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION

Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Amendment - #2021-05

To account for various items. **Budget Amendment #2021-03 – Attachment A**

2. Country Club Fireworks Approval

Request for approval allowing the Blowing Rock County Club to shoot fireworks on July 3, 2021.

3. Republic Contract

As part of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget process, Town Staff met and discussed the Town's current recycling contract with Republic Services set to expire September 20, 2021. From a series of meetings, Republic Services has offered to the Town a five-year contract beginning October 1, 2021, that includes recycling, disposal of town residential waste and Foothills Landfill, and Republic Services to operate the commercial collection

within the Town of Blowing Rock. Under the proposed contract, Republic would continue to collect the Town's recycling as normal, the Town would continue to collect residential waste as normal, and Republic Services would assume the commercial collection for the Town of Blowing Rock. Under this proposal staff estimates no increase cost to the Town's residents for recycling or residential waste collection. Overall, the proposal if accepted, will result in significant savings to the Town. Town Staff has estimated that the Town will save approximately \$64,000 per year with these options, or \$320,000 over the five-year term. These savings include the reduction of one-full time position and the elimination of one garbage truck at a cost savings of approximately \$175,000.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to approved Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mark Crumpler - 215 Morningside Dr, advised he has been a Blowing Rock resident and merchant since 1980. He further advised he has had problems with parking for many years and would like to propose the Town get stricter with parking Mother's Day to Thanksgiving. He stated his employees all sign a pledge when hired that they will not park on Main Street during that time frame. Mr. Crumpler stated the merchants only have approximately seven (7) months to make their money for the year and not having sufficient parking solutions effects the merchants. He explained he's been before Council before, but never has felt that Council was behind finding a permanent solution to the problem. Mr. Crumpler stated he was in favor of paid parking or stricter enforcement similar to what the Town of Boone currently does. He further stated he's always been very proud of Blowing Rock and the only "black eye" he's ever heard from customers is the parking issues. Mr. Crumpler concluded he would like to thank Council for their time and hoped they would stand behind the merchants and customers to come up with an effective solution to the problem.

Pam Lowry – 389 Fairway 11 CT, spoke regarding speeding on Green Hill Road. Ms. Lowry advised she and her husband are full time residents of Blowing Rock and she has spoken to Council before about speeding issues in that area. Ms. Lowry stated she had some questions she would like to ask Council to answer, not staff, about the road. She further stated she had requested a meeting with the vendor who is doing the traffic study and was told by several Council Members that was not possible, one Council Member was very helpful, which she appreciated. Her question is if the Town is paying the group \$12,300 for a study, and what she needs to tell them doesn't fit into their idea of doing a traffic study, she didn't understand why a taxpayer can't meet directly with the group. Ms. Lowry advised she had a list of her questions she would like each of the Council Members to answer. Mayor Sellers asked Ms. Lowry to give her list to be distributed to Council Members and they would answer the questions after the meeting in their time. Ms. Lowry thanked Council for their time and advised she would like a comment from someone regarding this matter.

Council Member Yount asked Manager Fox for clarification if the intersection of Green Hill Road and Hwy 321 was part of the study. Manager Fox advised it was not because

that section is owned and maintained by DOT, and only the Town owned/maintained section of Green Hill is part of the scope of the study. Manager Fox further stated DOT is aware of the intersection and the problems and complaints associated with it. Mayor Sellers advised since that was brought up, he had addressed the issue with DOT and if the citizens feel as a whole there needs to be a traffic light there then that is something they will need to request from DOT.

Mr. Parson's – 1577 Green Hill Road spoke about the Green Hill Road traffic study. He stated he had a series of questions to ask Council and would like for them to consider them before taking any action on any projects on Green Hill Rd. Mr. Parson's first question was how Council could approve any sub-division with multiple driveway cuts onto a road with limited visibility without first seeing a traffic study. Mayor Sellers reminded Mr. Parson's he needed to refrain from speaking directly towards the Heather Ridge request as that would be presented later in the agenda and be opened for public input. Mr. Parson's advised he wasn't speaking directly about that, but in general to projects that have been done or attempted to be done, example the Winkler project etc. Mr. Parson's explained all these subdivisions put pressure on Green Hill Road, all of which have been covered in the traffic study and he can't understand why not wait to see the results of the study before approving any project that could possibly alter or effect the results and recommendations.

Ms. Martha Greene – advised she was born and raised in Blowing Rock she currently lives on Flat Top Road in Blowing Rock. Ms. Greene further advised she has family that still in Blowing Rock and has a lot of family buried in Woodlawn Cemetery. Ms. Greene stated she is very upset with the Town Cemetery as she has had numerous family member's flowers stolen off their graves. She further stated other local families have had the same thing happen with their family graves. Police Chief Aaron Miller advised they were made aware on Monday, June 7th of the situation that had occurred over the weekend time frame and were very taking the incident very seriously. Chief Miller advised he had met with Public Works and are trying to come up with some solutions to secure the cemetery and keep this from happening again. Some of the solutions include new locks, extra security and the possibility of installing security cameras.

Mayor Sellers thanked the citizens for their comments.

PRESENTATION

Julie Wiggins Executive Director of the High Country Council of Governments gave a history and overview of the organization.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. FY '21-22 Budget

Mayor Sellers asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing. Council Member Matheson made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

Town Manager Fox presented via PowerPoint an overview of the budget highlights including Republic Service taking over commercial garbage for the twenty-two (22) commercial customers, a two-year (2) employee salary increase plan to get employees within market rate, a .04 cent tax increase and GO Bond debit.

Council Member Powell brought up sales tax between the Town and Watauga County. Council discussed briefly with Manager Fox the difference between Ad Valorem vs Population methods. Council Member Powell asked about how much monthly the Town currently distributes to the County for Sales Tax under the Ad Valorem method. Manager Fox advised it's approximately \$90,000 per month. Council Member Powell further asked how much the Town is set to receive from the County in the upcoming budget. Manager Fox advised it was \$12,000. Council Member Powell stated when it's appropriate she would like to amend the budget at the July Mid-Year Retreat the money the Town gives back to the County.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting requested Manager Fox explain the difference between Ad Valorem vs Population. Manager Fox explained the difference between the two methods. Town currently receives more money and is better with the Ad Valorem method.

After further discussion, Council Member Powell made a motion for the Town to retain the monthly payment of approximately \$90,000 for the June payment until Council has discussion during the Mid-Year Retreat in July as there is no contract for the Town to give this money to the County and Council needs to look at this in detail and see if it's truly a benefit to our taxpayers.

Council Member Harwood asked Council Member Powell if she would be willing to table her motion until the end of the Manager's Budget presentation so Council can look at the complete the Budget in its entirety before deciding on her motion.

Council Member Powell agreed.

Council Member Yount commented the budget presentation was the most informative and concise presentation of what is the "cost to do business in the Town of Blowing Rock every year" and Manager Fox and Finance Officer Nicole Norman are responsible.

Mayor Sellers opened the Public Hearing.

Mr. Tim Gupton – 235 Meadow Lane spoke as President of the Blowing Rock Civic Association. Mr. Gupton advised he had met with Manager Fox and gone through the Budget in detail. He further advised it's important to note in this Budget there is a substantial statutory remittance of TDA taxes back to the TDA and an agreement to remit funds back to the TDA and an agreement to remit funds back to the County. Mr. Gupton explained the gross Budget was for 10.5 million for the general fund, but 1.9 million has to go back to the TDA and the County, so in actuality the Town has 8.5 million a year to fund the expenditures. Mr. Gupton advised he says this to illustrate from an accounting perspective. He further explained property taxes make up about 49% of the gross number

but provides about 60% of the total Budget. Mr. Gupton advised he was pointing that out because the tax base is what helped the Town through COVID, but the Town is also blessed with a diversity of revenue from Sales Tax and other taxes. Mr. Gupton concluded what he was trying to clarify to the community is the property taxes represent 60% of the total Budget, so 60% of that money is what is available to the Town.

Ms. Mary Hill 140 Heather Ridge stated residents pride Blowing Rock being a wonderful place to retire, but most people of retirement age at some point may need ambulance service and feel that is something that really needs to be investigated.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting asked Ms. Hill if that were something she would be willing to pay for if that were to be an option. Ms. Hill advised she would be willing to. Council discussed the ambulance service briefly. Manager Fox clarified where currently the Town stands emergency service wise. Council discussed further at length.

Council Member Yount made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Sellers restated Council Member Powell's motion; Council Member Powell made a motion for the Town to retain the monthly payment of approximately \$90,000 for the June payment until Council has discussion during the Mid-Year Retreat in July. The motion died for a lack of a seconded.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to approve the FY '21-22 Budget as presented, seconded by Council Member Yount. Unanimously approved.

2. Heather Ridge - SUP

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock reported K. West, LLC is requesting a Special Use Permit for a 9-lot single-family subdivision on the corner of Heather Ridge Lane and Green Hill Road. The 5.1-acre subject property is zoned R-15 single-family and is partially in the WS-IV water supply watershed. No new roads are proposed for the subdivision as each lot will have direct access to a public street.

The subject property is a 5-acre wooded tract between Green Hill Road and Heather Ridge Lane. Approximately 0.50 acre of the property is in the water supply watershed with the remainder outside of the watershed. Each proposed lot meets the minimum size requirements of 15,000 sq feet and minimum lot width of 100 feet.

Five (5) lots front Green Hill Road, three (3) lots front Heather Ridge Lane, and one lot is located on the corner of both streets. To minimize driveway access cuts onto Green Hill Road, staff recommends access for lots 1, 2, and 3 be provided/shared from Heather Ridge Lane.

The setback shown on lot #1 should be 30 feet on one street and 20 feet on the other. The potential owner will have the option of determining which is the primary street.

No access is allowed to the lower gravel section of Heather Ridge Lane. The section of road is outside of Town limits and is private.

Storm water detention is not required on this project as no new streets or roads are being proposed. However, as a result of discussions during the Planning Board meeting, neighboring property owners met with the Applicant, Applicant's engineer, and Town staff on June 2 to discuss solutions to limit negative storm water impacts as a result of the development of the single-family lots. The draft SUP requires a comprehensive storm water management plan be submitted, reviewed, and approved by the Town Engineer to address specific goals discussed with the neighbors. No building permit for houses will be issued until the items recommended are completed.

Lots (1-7) along Green Hill Road will be served by the existing gravity sewer in Green Hill. An extension to the existing 2-inch pressure sewer line is proposed along the lower, downhill section of Heather Ridge to account for lot 8 and 9. All sewer line improvements will be installed at the developer's expense. Staff and the Town Engineer will approve water and sewer systems to meet the Town Code.

At their May 20, 2021, meeting, the Planning Board recommended approval of the Special Use Permit with the following conditions:

- Limiting driveway access with a 10-foot non-access easement to Greenhill Road along lots one and three, and shared driveways on lots four and five, and on lots six and seven
- The developer shall endeavor to minimize the concentration of stormwater on each lot.
- The developer meets with neighbors to address storm water concerns

Town Attorney Allen Moseley advised one individual wanted to intervene and asked if there are any others that wanted to intervene. He explained the definition of "standing" for who qualified to intervene.

Mr. Rick Parsons 1577 Greenhill Road read a letter advising why he felt he had standing and should be allowed to speak.

After some discussion and clarification from Mr. Moseley, he advised there was not a limit on how many could speak in opposition to SUP, but in order to be an intervenor the individual must demonstrate special damages or hardships the potential development could cause.

Mr. Jim Blane 208 Heather Ridge Lane advised he lives near the property but would be representing Mr. Wayne Smith who lives at 338 Heather Ridge Lane down at the bottom of Heather Ridge. He further advised Mr. Smith also owns a portion of the private road. Mr. Blane explained Mr. Smith is suffering special damages as he is already innovated with all the water that is coming down on his property. Mr. Blane advised with all due respect; Mr. Rothrock has made the decision Chapter 16 doesn't apply to this property

because there isn't more than 10,000 square feet of impervious improvements so that is why Mr. Rothrock is making that determination. He further advised with the proposed nine (9) house that is approximately 18,000 square feet of impervious surface out there. Mr. Blane re-stated driveways need to be located, a lot of things Chapter 16 requires needs to be located that are being "side stepped", this is a developed property in a unified fashion and is putting 18,000 feet of impervious surface out there and for those reasons he respectfully asks to intervene on behalf of Mr. Smith.

Chelsea Garrett, Attorney for the Applicant, asked Mr. Blane if there had been any professionals consulted for the existing alleged water run off issues. Mr. Blane replied they are in the process of doing that but haven't had a chance to before the meeting. He said due to the quick time frame and contactors, surveyors etc. quoting anywhere from ninety (90) to one-hundred twenty (120) days there is no way to be ready with that information. Mr. Blane suggested the applicant had not consulted a professional yet either probably for the same reasons they have been unable to get a professional to weigh in. Mr. Blane stated this Council is not ready to make their decision on this subdivision at this time.

Ms. Garrett advised she was able to speak with Mr. Blane prior to the meeting and she understood and appreciated Mr. Smith's position. She explained she doesn't have a problem with people intervening as it's an important topic that people in close proximity have the right to be heard. She explained the problem she has with Mr. Blane being able to intervene is the potential of an appeal to happen later down the road and her client to be stuck incurring those legal expenses.

After further discussion and clarification Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to approve Mr. Blane had standing to intervene on behalf of Mr. Smith, seconded by Council Member Yount. In favor of the motion; Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting, Council Members Yount, Matheson and Powell. Against the motion; Council Member Harwood. Motion passed.

Mr. Patrick Warren, Engineer for the project spoke to the water run off and that he's looked at some of the existing issues. Mr. Warren advised this property is broken up so all the water would not be going to one particular area.

Stormwater runoff, existing and potential with adding more impervious areas and efforts being made to accommodate for all were discussed at length.

Mr. Chuck Phillips, one of the applicant's stated he would be glad to answer any questions anyone had. Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting asked what the approximate cost of the homes would be. Mr. Phillips further stated approximately \$900,00, the goal is to stay under one million dollars. Council Member Yount commented he heard a statement made that there is a drainage problem, but it's not up to the applicant to correct the problem. Mr. Phillips advised he wants to be a good neighbor and comply. He explained he is not here to "steamroll" anyone. He explained he wanted to be fair and will abide by the Town Code. Mr. Phillips stated Blowing Rock is special to him as it is to many others, and he wants to

preserve it. He just wants to comply and work with Planning and Inspections. Mr. Phillips advised he envisions a development that blends in, not one that sticks out. He further advised the house should fit the land.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting asked Mr. Warren to define Storm Water Management. He replied it's an overall plan to make sure that you're directing water that's not going to damage adjoining properties.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting asked Mr. Warren to explain why the people on the other side of the road are having to use sandbags if the drainage pipes are working.

Ms. Garrett asked when Council hears from everyone preserving the general objection to consideration that any testimony regarding property values or anything that require an expert for it to be reliable including runoff.

Mr. Blane thinks the property owners have every right to talk about the value of their own property and the immediate impact they have.
Mayor Sellers opened the public hearing.

Mr. Wayne Smith of 338 Heather Ridge Lane commented his primary concern is water damage, he's at the bottom. Mr. Smith advised he had sent a letter to the Town Clerk for distribution to Council and he hoped everyone had read it. He explained one of the issues that hasn't been addressed is "seepage" when the water comes off these impervious areas and goes into the ground, but it has to go somewhere. He explained when he met with Mr. Warren and Mr. Phillips about the drainage at that point it wasn't realized where the water was coming or going from. Mr. Smith advised he sits on his porch and watches the water is different than someone doing calculations. He further explained most of the residents' concerns is how quickly the process is moving. Mr. Smith mentioned Mr. Rothrock had made some additions to the SUP conditions based off of information gathered from the neighborhood meeting that were to his benefit. He further mentioned he had done a lot of work to the areas around his property to try to help relieve some of the seepage problems which then run it to the creek behind his house. Mr. Smith advised that creek is one of the headwaters of the New River and that need to be paid attention to for runoff and contamination. Mr. Smith advised he had done a lot of work, but by no means have captured all the water, but captured enough water that the natural slope of the land and vegetation can handle to water that comes onto their property. Mr. Smith further advised neighbors have specific existing water issues with run off in existing vegetated areas. Mr. Smith explained his main concern is additional drainage to his property. He asked where the liability would fall for that extra drainage, current property owners, developer, builder, Town or the new property owners. Mr. Smith said he would like to request the developer and/or engineer submit a grading plan, storm water management model and a surface water runoff mitigation plan to give an idea of where the water is going to go and what it's going to do. Mr. Smith stated his intention isn't to deny the proposal, but delay until these questions can be answered.

Council Member Harwood stated in reading Mr. Smith's letter to Council he wanted clarification if the drainage issues on his property were ones from day one or over time.

Mr. Smith said they have always had water issues but also have also done a lot of work to manage and control the water.

Council Member Powell mentioned that several of the homeowners in this area rely on spring water for their water source.

Patricia Aiken of 252 Heather Ridge Lane stated she had submitted a letter to Council prior to the meeting listing her concerns. She said had some water concerns as her driveway is right across from one of the proposed driveways. Ms. Aiken further stated she had expressed her concerns at the neighborhood meeting and had been assured all efforts would be made to help keep the water in the ditches. Ms. Aiken advised she was worried about the density of the project and the feel of the neighborhood changing. She further advised she as well as neighbors were concerned with property values being affected.

Joseph Coyne who owns a vacant lot on Heather Ridge said he had the same concerns that had already been mentioned. He explained his intention is making Blowing Rock his permanent residence and was concerned with the density and the extra water runoff.

Adam Hill of 1663 Greenhill Road expressed his concern with the proposed driveways and the potential runoff effects they could cause to his driveway. Mr. Hill stated he was concerned with the already dangerous Greenhill Road adding more traffic and the increase causing more speeding traffic.

Kirby Strickland of 1661 Greenhill Road said he lives directly across from the development and is concerned with adding nine (9) more homes will add more speeders to that road. He suggested a stop sign in that area may be a good option.

Richard Cammerer of 194 Heather Ridge Lane stated he has concerns with water runoff on his property. He further stated the current water press fluctuates when all neighbors are here and adding nine (9) more homes is concerning for what that could add to the existing problem. Mr. Cammerer said he would hope the Town would prevent a development that would be a loss of trees, cause more runoff, more traffic and the loss of wildlife habitat.

Dinny Addison Lot D-11 stated her family property at the end of Greenhill Road had been sold to the Blue Ridge Parkway Conservation Trust of North Carolina and would be protected land forever. Ms. Addison commented the Yadkin River Basin is below this property and that supplies many downstream with drinking water. She further commented the Town needed to think about the water runoff and potential contamination it could cause. Ms. Addison stated there is not enough info to approve the project, the density is too high and feels a happy medium need to be met between all involved before a decision is made.

Judy Allison 244 Heather Ridge Lane advised she loved Blowing Rock. She expressed her concerns was damage to surrounding properties as well as felt this was one of the last developable pieces of property and this needs to be thoughtfully and carefully considered. Ms. Allison stated she was aware this property met code but felt nine (9) homes was too dense. She explained her concern with how it would fit in the existing area. Ms. Allison stated her main concerns were land preservation and environmental impact. Ms. Allison stated no new development should be considered until the traffic study is completed. She further stated she respectfully requested Council delay approval until a lot of the concerns can be resolved.

Rick Parsons 1577 Greenhill Road stated the Town needed to do a stormwater management model study. He further stated there is not enough information to approve the project.

Ms. Garrett thanked Council for their time and explained she understood the neighbors have very strong feelings about the development. She further explained it's a balancing act between what the code states and allows and a way to make the development fit the concerns of the neighbors. Ms. Garrett advised Council heard sworn testimony by the developer and engineer that the concerns of the residents would be adhered to as well as making sure this development fit the area. Ms. Garrett stated the development meets code, there are no variances and is in harmony. Ms. Garrett further reviewed some of the concerns of the citizens and stated the applicant will work to resolve those concerns before anything is built. Ms. Garrett further stated this development is not going to increase speeding and the applicant has no issues with anyone adding stop signs or other measures to help resolve this. Ms. Garrett concluded that the concerns raised are not "Earthshattering" and the applicant is more than willing to work with the neighbors and be good neighbor to them. She asked Council to take all into consideration and approve the project.

Mr. Blane thanked Council for their time and the citizens for their input. He explained his client's position was pretty simple and that is the applicant's application is not complete and is not ready to be approved. Mr. Blane stated certain parts of the Land Use Ordinance have been sidestepped and said not to be applicable, but in fact are applicable. Mr. Blane further stated there are several provisions that have not been followed and have slipped though even after Planning Board reviewed that need to be addressed before the development can be approved. He advised he wasn't asking Council to go outside the statute, these requirements are within the statute. Mr. Blane stated the request is premature and the "cart is being put before the horse." He respectfully requested Council deny the request.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

Mr. Rothrock clarified the questions for the lot size.

Council Member Yount advised he didn't see any animosity from anyone including the developer and he felt everyone was speaking from their heart. He advised there are some things that need to be researched a little bit further and felt there may be a possibility of working something out.

Council Member Harwood asked if the applicant was amenable to two driveways off Greenhill Road and adjusting Lot 6 to achieve 100 feet. Mr. Phillips advised he would.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting stated she had some concerns that she would like to see answered before she is comfortable voting either way.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to table the request and asked the developer to get a stormwater management plan, a surface water runoff mitigation plan, a grading plan and Council be able to review the traffic study once it is completed. Council Member Yount seconded.

Council discussed further.

Council Member Harwood stated he didn't see why Council needed to delay this request, this project meets the Town Code and the runoff study will be supplied by the applicant and approved by our engineers. He stated he had faith in Mr. Warren to complete that as well as McGill to review. Doesn't see how the applicant can provide a grading plan when they haven't sold a lot nor have house plans. He stated our code doesn't require these things and he wanted to know why it was being requested.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting stated she made these request because she knew there was a problem there and this would make her feel better to know for sure.

With no further discussion the motion was; Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to table the SUP and asked the developer to get a stormwater management model plan, a surface water runoff mitigation plan, a grading plan and Council get the traffic study group to weigh in about potential impact from this development affecting traffic on Greenhill Road. Council Member Yount seconded. For the motion: Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting, Council Members Yount, Matheson and Powell. Against the motion: Council Member Harwood. Motion passed.

3. Coffee Shop – SUP

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to postpone until the July Council meeting, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

4. GO Bond

Manager Fox explained in November 2014, voters approved Water, Sewer, Street and Park and Recreation bonds to be issued to the Town of Blowing Rock, expiring in November 2021. The Town of Blowing Rock has issued to date the first three phases of the 2014 Bonds, with a fourth and final phase to be issued soon. In order to allow for Town Council and Town Staff to issue the final phase of the bonds in accordance with the

Town's projects and priorities timeline, additional time is needed beyond the November 2021 expiration date. In accordance with North Carolina law, the Blowing Rock Town Council, must hold a public hearing on the proposed 2014 Bond Order extension for such extension to take effect. It is of note, that the NC LGC and State Treasurer's Office has already approved the extension.

Mayor Sellers opened the Public Hearing. With no comments or questions from the Public Council Member Powell made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting made a motion to approve the 2014 Bond extension, seconded by Council Member Yount. Unanimously approved.

OTHER BUSINESS

NONE

OFFICIALS REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Mayor Sellers – None
- Council Member Yount – None
- Council Member Harwood – None
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sweeting – Would like to bring up parking at the mid-year retreat. Albert stated he would like to add discussing 2 hour vs. 3 hour parking.
- Council Member Matheson – Asked for everyone to get the word out the Town's free shuttle is running again on Friday's and Saturday's. Route is posted on the website.
- Council Member Powell – Wants to put on record Manager Shane protected every employee's job and no employee's left during the pandemic. Thanked Manager Fox for addressing our top ten list within this budget.
- Town Attorney Moseley – None
- Manager Fox –444 days we were in the North Carolina State of Emergency. ABC Store is up 87% over the previous year. The TDA up 34% over last year.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Powell made a motion to adjourn at 12:30 a.m., seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments

Budget Amendment #2021-05 – Attachment A
Republic Contract – Attachment B
Heather Ridge SUP Citizen Letters – Attachment C
GO Bond Extension – Attachment D