

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
April 9, 2024

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, 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 and Council Members Cat Perry, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett and Pete Gherini. Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson was unable to attend the meeting. Others in attendance were Interim Town Manager Kevin Rothrock, Town Attorney Tucker Deal, Town Engineer Jared Wright, Interim Planning Director Brian Johnson, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Landscape Director Cory Cathcart, IT Director Thomas Steele, Finance Director Tasha Brown and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner.

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 Gherini made the motion to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024, regular and closed session meetings, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION

Council Member Harwood made a motion to approve the regular meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Budget Amendment**
- 2. Fireworks Approval**
- 3. Special Events Request – BRS Rocket Run**
- 4. Special Events Request – Summer Kick-Off**
- 5. Special Events Request – Cornhole Tournament**
- 6. ARPA Policies**

Council Member Perry made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Cecil Stallard 623 Green Hill Circle – Questions about the possibility of a tower being reconsidered for Green Hill Circle.

Mayor Sellers explained currently nothing has been brought to Council and if anything were to be brought before Council a Public meeting would be scheduled.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Instating a High-Country Poet Laureat- Resolution of Support

Amber Bateman and Hilda Downer presented to Town Council a proposal to Instate a High Country Poet Laureate to serve Watauga and Ashe Counties and asked for a adopted resolution of support.

Council Member Harwood commented that he thought it was a wonderful idea.

Council Member Perry made a motion to approve the resolution of support, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Sellers read the resolution.

OFFICIAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Mayor Sellers extended his condolences to Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson and his family upon the death of his father-in-law, thanked County Commissioner Todd Castle for attending the meeting, thanked department heads and staff for all their hard work.
- Council Member Perry – Nothing
- Council Member Harwood – Nothing
- Council Member Pickett – Nothing
- Council Member Gherini asked for an update on the flashing light on Sunset for school traffic, stated the post office has a new manager who will be adding additional signage and enforcing parking, received an email from an attorney asking about the Town's liability with no railings on the steps by the American Legion, the Boone Chamber and the Economic Development held a symposium on childcare which went very well and was well received.
- Mayor Sellers – Asked staff to check on the hand rails because it was discussed in the past.
- Interim Police Chief Nathan Kirk explained the lights for the school crossing are working, but not working well. There isn't power in that location, so it makes the lights a little tricky. Some of the things he has implemented to help with school traffic safety is a pedestrian sign that has "school" on the top as well as have an officer present in the morning and in the afternoons. Hoping the sign will bring awareness if at anytime an officer was unable to be present.
- Town Attorney Tucker Deal – Nothing
- Town Engineer Jared Wright gave an update on the Main Street Water/Sewer project. 5 more months remaining in the contract, the contractor is on schedule, approximately two (2) weeks remaining on the North Main full road closure. Crews will move to Main Street working Morris Street to Maple Street and should do the work fairly quickly. He commented Iron Mountain is a great contractor and

is providing great work.

- Interim Manager Kevin Rothrock reported Mayor and staff had a meeting earlier in the day with the Governor's Hometown strong Team – topics discussed were housing, space needs, emergency communications, water/sewer rehab and expansion and water/sewer plant upgrades. Staff is working on right-of-way clearing throughout Town, Iron Mountain is doing a great job with the water and sewer work and has been very easy to work with, very responsive and attentive and additional trash can tops/lids have been ordered to replace old ones.

Council took a 10-minute recess before going into closed session.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:40 PM Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session, **NCGS 143-318.11.(A) (5)** – *Discussion of potential property acquisition*, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:00 p.m. Council returned to open session and with no further business, Council Member Perry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Gherini. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments

Resolution of Support – Poet Laureat – Attachment A