

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council Meeting**  
**October 8, 2024**

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 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, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson, Council Members Cat Perry, David Harwood, Melissa Pickett and Pete Gherini. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Town Attorney Tucker Deal, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Finance Director Tasha Brown, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Nathan Kirk, Landscape Director Cory Cathcart, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Public Works Director Matt Blackburn, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham 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**

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson made the motion to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024, regular and closed session meetings, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

**REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION**

Mayor Sellers added FEMA update and FEMA ordinance to the regular agenda.

Council Member Harwood made a motion to adopt the regular agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Perry.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Tax Releases**
- 2. Budget Amendment**

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

**SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Gigi Poole of 147 Dogwood Lane – spoke with her concerns of walking down Main Street every morning and witnessing, men in particular, standing in the window of the Main and Pine building in their underwear. She said she felt it was inappropriate and was not good

for the impressionable young children that go by every morning on their way to school.

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **1. FEMA Update**

Catherine Anderson and Jacob Kwiatkowski with FEMA both spoke and gave information on resources and what FEMA is currently providing to help aid with storm related assistance.

### **2. Hurricane Helene Update**

Manager Shane Fox gave an update on the timeline of events for hurricane Helene, beginning with the tornado that touched down on Wednesday, September 24, prior to the hurricane.

### **3. Special Revenue Fund Project Ordinance**

Manager Fox explained the ordinance would solidify the Town has the authority to legally start the FEMA process. He explained there will be a three-tier process for reimbursement to the town for storm related expenditures; time & benefits, debris removal with STR (a company contracted through the county) and slope failures/capital projects. Manager Fox stated the current estimated cost for storm related expenses is approximately \$120,000 with the expectation of more costs to come in the next few weeks. The request is permission to establish a fund that will keep all costs separated to allow FEMA to track back costs.

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson asked if the Town would be able to be reimbursed for equipment costs.

Manager Fox stated the Town would be and explained FEMA has a calculation and all the hours, equipment used etc. will be reimbursed to the Town.

Council Member Harwood asked Manager Fox if there was anything the Town needs that they currently do not have.

Manager Fox stated not at this time.

Council Member Gherini made a motion to approve the ordinance as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett.

## **OFFICIAL REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- Mayor Sellers – Thanked everyone from the staff, to citizens, to the organizations for their efforts and help during the hurricane. Due to the recent weather the voluntary water restriction is lifted.
- Council Member Perry – Thanked everyone and stated she was thankful to live in a place where so many could give.
- Council Member Harwood – Thanked everyone for all their hard work.
- Council Member Pickett – Thanked everyone for all their hard work and reminded this is going to be a very long recovery and not one that will happen overnight.

- Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson – Thanked everyone for their hard work. The NC League as well as a lot of other Towns have offered help. Reminded a lot of the festivals have been cancelled, the Blue Ridge Parkway is currently closed, Tweetise & Grandfather Mountain are currently closed, leaf season isn't happening this year.
- Council Member Gherini – Thanked everyone for their help during this difficult time.
- Town Attorney Tucker Deal – None
- Town Manager Shane Fox – Gave updates on Main Street Project, 221 project Maple Street, diver work at the Town Reservoir, survey work at the reservoir and spillway work at Mayview Lake. Discussions have been had about getting the messaging out for visitors to travel thoughtfully and realize experiences are going to be a little different than years in the past.

Upcoming dates:

TDA Special Meeting – Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. at Town Hall,  
 Neighborhood Meeting – Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall, early  
 Voting starts Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at the American Legion and goes through  
 Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:00 PM Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session, **NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(6) Attorney/Client privilege**, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

At 7:15 p.m. the Council returned to open session and with no further business, Council Member Perry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_  
**Charlie Sellers, Mayor**

ATTEST \_\_\_\_\_  
**Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk**

**Attachments**

**Tax Releases – Attachment A**  
**Budget Amendment – Attachment B**