

## MINUTES

### Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners Special Meeting-August 31, 2010

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting on Tuesday, August 31, 2010. The meeting took place at the American Legion building located on Wallingford Street. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phillip Pickett, Tommy Klutz, and Doug Matheson. Also present were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

#### **DISCUSSION ITEM**

##### **1. Hill Street Parking**

Mayor Lawrence began by reading Chapter VI Section 23 of the Town Code entitled *Parking Prohibited in Certain Locations; No Traffic Control Devices Required*.

A. No person may park vehicle or permit it to stand in any of the following locations:

(7) In any portion of a roadway intended to carry traffic at the time such vehicle is parked or left standing. (Adopted in 1984)

Mayor Lawrence opened the floor for comments. Commissioner Pickett stated he felt this was an inappropriate time to prohibit parking on Hill Street due to the current economy. He felt this would jeopardize business at Knights on Main.

Commissioner Klutz agreed with Commissioner Pickett. He stated that parking had been allowed along the sides of town streets since the 1950's. He stated if no parking was to be enforced in this particular area it should be enforced all over town or else a code change needed to be made. He did not feel there should be selective enforcement.

Commissioner Klutz made a motion to allow parking along the sides of streets with enforcement at the discretion of the Police Department as it has been for the last 60 years. Commissioner Pickett seconded the motion. However, Commissioner Pickett had reservations about allowing the Police Department to enforce the issue at their discretion because he did not want to jeopardize the town in any way. He asked Police Chief Eric Brown if his department could enforce this issue fairly 24 hours a day, seven

days a week. Chief Brown advised that his department could enforce parking regulations however needed.

Ms. Cyndi King asked who would be responsible should someone be involved in an accident due to cars being on the side of the street.

Town Attorney Moseley questioned Commissioner Klutz's motion. He asked if his intention was to remove the subparagraph that prohibited parking on the roadways. He was unclear as to how this would work.

Commissioner Klutz pointed out until recently parking enforcement was left to the discretion of the police department.

Ms. Jane Fonvielle, a resident of Hill Street, commented the situation had gotten worse and even with the no parking signs, people were still parking on the side of the road.

Commissioner Yount stated since all Council members were not present at the meeting the parking situation on Hill Street was the only thing that Council should take issue with according to *Roberts Rules of Order* during this meeting.

At 4:20 p.m. Commissioner Jim Steele entered the meeting.

Mr. Donnie Hefner of Hill Street mentioned his concerns regarding safety and if fire trucks would be able to get to homes on Hill Street if parking were to continue along the sides of the road.

Ms. Clara Hartley, owner of Hartley Interiors, stated for the past 14 years that she had owned her business and mentioned there were times that she could not park on her property due to her lot being filled with Knights on Main patrons, but this was not the main concern, safety was the issue.

Audience member Ruth Klutz stated if parking was enforced on the small portion of Hill Street it should be enforced on all of Hill Street as well as other areas of town.

Mayor Lawrence read from the N.C. General Statutes regarding parking in roadways and advised the State took precedence over the local code. Attorney Moseley commented that in the General Statutes the description of roadway was very broad and dealt mostly with parking in front of fire hydrants and in intersections.

Commissioner Yount stated that Council had voted on this issue during their regular meeting and had voted to install signage and begin enforcement of this issue. Town Manager Hildebran advised that a motion was not made or needed because the Town had enacted a law already regarding no parking on the sides of town roadways. Council consensus at that time was to install signage and begin stricter enforcement.

Mr. Mark Crumpler asked if no parking near Knights on Main was supposed to be enforced why it wasn't being enforced and what was the purpose of this meeting.

Ms. Carol Aldridge, a resident of Hill Street commented that she understood if the UPS truck had to park in the area for a short period, but the situation had gotten worse with people parking on the side of the road and only one lane being open to traffic.

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock presented a map showing the area in question and suggested that white lines on Hill Street be painted on the edge of the pavement since the roadway was not the same width throughout. He thought that possibly one parking space could be within the grassed area at Knights if needed.

Mayor Lawrence mentioned after the lines were painted and road delineated, parking on the roadway should be prohibited and tickets given.

Ms. Fonvielle and her husband Ed Lavoie asked if white lines could be painted on their property to distinguish parking for her home. Mr. Rothrock stated since this was a private matter for them to decide.

Mr. Jim Brown owner of Estate Jewelry commented since parking was being discussed he would like for the minutes to reflect that he had spoken regarding a problem he was having behind his business. He stated that cars were blocking the alleyway access and he asked that this area be enforced by the town.

At this time, Commissioner Klutz withdrew his motion and Commissioner Pickett withdrew his second to the motion.

Commissioner Yount made a motion to add white lines on Hill Street and install no parking signage along the entire street and also suggested that property owners have surveys done of their properties so they could allow for parking in front of their homes without being in the town right of way. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Matheson. Unanimously approved.

**ADJOURN**

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_  
**J.B. Lawrence**

**ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**