

**Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting – January 11, 2011**

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Phillip Pickett, Tommy Klutz, Doug Matheson, and Jim Steele. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence opened the meeting at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held on December 14th and 30th, 2010 as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Mr. Tommy Trexler presented the Town with a baseball and pictures from the 1967 Little League Championship won by Blowing Rock. Team members present with Mr. Trexler were; Tommy Wright, Robert Craig, Johnny Lentz, Charlie Travis, and Ricky Coffey. The team's coaches, Mr. Perry Coffey and Mr. Earl Trexler were also present during the presentation.

After giving a brief history of the Little League Championship, Mr. Trexler donated the autographed baseball and photo to the Town to be placed in the display area at Town Hall. Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Trexler for preserving this bit of Blowing Rock history. A motion was made by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Matheson to accept Mr. Trexler's donation. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Amendments to Land Use Ordinance (Ordinance #2010-20)

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock presented revisions to the Land Use Ordinance as recommended by Town Consultant Mike Egan, the Planning Board and Town Council.

Mr. Rothrock stated during the December 30th meeting, clarification was made regarding the selection of a chair and vice-chair from the regular in-town members of the Board of Adjustment. He advised this change had been added to the draft ordinance.

After giving a brief description of the changes made in each section, Mr. Rothrock commented the Land Use Ordinance would be more flexible and would also decriminalize violations.

Commissioner Klutz asked about the fees for violations. Mr. Rothrock stated the fees ranged from \$100.00-\$500.00.

With no further comments, Commissioner Pickett made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Yount then made a motion to approve Ordinance #2010-20 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

Land Use Ordinance #2010-20 – Exhibit A

2. Town Code – Snow Emergency Zones (Ordinance #2011-01)

Planning Director Rothrock stated the purpose of the proposed ordinance was to provide the Public Works Department with adequate access to effectively and efficiently clean snow from downtown streets and ensure public safety. The ordinance would require all vehicles to be removed from on-street parking spaces on Main Street from Hwy 221 to Chestnut Street, and on Sunset Drive from Main Street to Ransom Street during snow events. The designated snow emergency zones would be restricted from the hours of 1:00 am to 9:00 am between December 1st and April 1st. Signs would be erected in November notifying the public of the snow emergency zones and would be removed in April. According to Section 6-35, violations would be issued in the amount of \$25.00 and if emergency conditions existed, vehicles could be towed from the snow emergency zones if needed.

Commissioner Klutz stated he did not want vehicles towed unless it was a last resort. Mr. Rothrock stated the Police Department would be the administrator over the violations and would use good judgement while determining if vehicles should be towed. Commissioner Klutz commented that he would like to see the time changed to 7:00 am instead of 9:00 am if possible. Town Manager Hildebran advised the Public Works Department needed adequate time to remove the snow and 7:00 am would not be ample time. Commissioner Steele suggested that businesses such as hotels, restaurants, etc. notify their guests of this ordinance change.

Commissioner Yount, seconded by Commissioner Pickett, made a motion to close the public hearing. Unanimously approved. A motion was made by Commissioner Matheson to accept Ordinance #2011-01 as presented. The motion received a second from Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

Snow Emergency Zones Ordinance #2011-01 – Exhibit B

OLD BUSINESS

1. NCDOT – Main Street Snow & Ice Removal Agreement

Town Manager Hildebran stated that during the November 8, 2010 meeting, Council approved execution of a one-year maintenance agreement with NCDOT which authorized the Town to provide for snow and ice removal along Main Street.

Since that meeting, several Council members had asked to reconsider their action taken during the November meeting. According to Mr. Hildebran, the maintenance responsibilities were not yet transferred and NCDOT had agreed to wait until the issue was further discussed.

Commissioner Klutz made a motion to return the maintenance of Main Street to its original agreement with NCDOT, seconded by Commissioner Yount. Commissioner Pickett asked Public Works Director Wilcox if he had enough manpower to take over the maintenance of Main Street. Mr. Wilcox responded that he would rather NCDOT maintain Main Street during snow events. Commissioner Yount commended Mr. Wilcox and his crew for the great job they were doing with snow removal and road clearance this winter. With no further comments, Council unanimously approved Mr. Klutz's motion.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Capital Project Ordinance Amendment #2 (Ordinance #2011-02)

Mr. Hildebran presented Ordinance #2011-02 amending Project Ordinance #2010-04 based on a revised water interconnection project estimate. The proposed amendment was due to reduced project costs due to savings associated with lower amounts of rock excavation; as well as cost savings for items such as guard rails as approved in change orders. According to Mr. Hildebran, revised amounts would be re-allocated towards the costs outlined in detail in the attached project ordinance.

Commissioner Pickett made a motion to approve Ordinance #2011-02 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved.

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment #2 (Ordinance #2011-02) – Exhibit C

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Mr. Hildebran stated that approximately 65.86 tons had been recycled since curbside recycling had begun in August of 2010.

He also reminded everyone of Jerry Absher's retirement party to be held at Town Hall the following day at 3:30 p.m.

Also, a Chamber Legislative Reception would be held on January 25th at Chetola and Council was invited to attend.

Mayor Lawrence remarked that he had received comments about the Town allowing the white Christmas lights to remain on through February. It was the consensus of Council to allow this request. Mr. Hildbran stated an ordinance change would be needed in the future regarding this issue.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (01-11-2011)

Land Use Ordinance #2010-20 – Exhibit A

Snow Emergency Zones Ordinance #2011-01 – Exhibit B

Capital Project Ordinance Amendment #2 (Ordinance #2011-02) – Exhibit C