

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting-May 8, 2012

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. Due to the primary election being held in the Town Hall Council Chambers, the meeting was moved to the Community Room at the Blowing Rock Community Library. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Albert Yount, Dan Phillips, Tommy Klutz, Doug Matheson and Jim Steele. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineers Doug Chapman and R.J. Moseley, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Police Chief Eric Brown, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Yount to approve the minutes as written for meetings held on April 10th and 17th, 2012. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Steele. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock presented models of several buildings in downtown Blowing Rock; a project completed by the 5th grade Academically and Intellectually Gifted (A.I.G.) students at Blowing Rock School. Mr. Rothrock stated the project helped the students understand scale, spatial analysis, creativity, and architectural features. He explained the students were unable to attend the meeting; however, he wanted everyone to view the great job that was done on the special project. Town Council commended the students on their work.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Wastewater Treatment Plant CIP Phase II – Bid Award (Res #2012-10)

Town Manager Hildebran stated that bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements (CIP Phase II) had been received on March 27, 2012.

The project consists of improvements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant which included a new emergency generator to replace the existing generator, new air piping

and diffusers for the aeration basins, handrail repairs, and related appurtenances. The items proposed were included in the adopted Water & Sewer Capital Improvements Plan.

The bids received were as follows:

Greene Construction Inc. (Boone, NC)	\$408,998
Brushy Mountain Builders, Inc. (Lenoir NC)	\$499,000
Gilbert Engineering Co. (Statesville, NC)	\$515,000
Hickory Construction Co. (Hickory, NC)	\$584,700
Mack Industries, Inc. (Astatula, FL)	\$694,000

Town Manager Hildebran advised that staff recommended the bid be awarded to low bidder Green Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$408,998

Based on the low bid, a project contingency and engineering design/bidding/inspection fees, a project budget and loan would be a recommended amount of \$565,138, with an additional \$14,740 (2%) in the required local-match closing fee for the up to \$737,000 loan. The initial estimate for the project was \$751,740.

With no further discussion, Commissioner Klutz made a motion to accept the low bid of \$408,990 from Green Construction and adopt Wastewater Treatment Plant CIP Phase II Bid Award - Resolution #2012-10 as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Steele. Unanimously approved. **Wastewater Treatment Plant CIP Phase II Bid Award – (Res #2012-10) – Exhibit A**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Request to Establish Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock (Res #2012-12)

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with a request from the Blowing Rock Historical Society to establish June 18, of each year as Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock.

Included in the request was Resolution #2012-12 declaring June 18th as “Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock” commemorating the life of Mr. Burns and recognizing the spirit of goodness, kindness and brotherly love that he exhibited to Blowing Rock on a daily basis.

Ms. Ginny Stevens also spoke regarding the many wonderful things that Mr. Burns had done for the Town such as creating a history of Blowing Rock through photographs, etc. Ms. Stevens stated that the Historical Society felt that Mr. Burns exemplified that he was a man for all the people in Blowing Rock.

Commissioner Matheson then made a motion to adopt Resolution #2012-12 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Yount. Mayor Lawrence asked for further

discussion. At this time, Commissioner Klutz shared an anonymous letter that he had received at his place of business regarding this request.

With no further comments, Mayor Lawrence called for a vote on Commissioner Matheson's motion to adopt Resolution #2012-12 Establishing Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock. Unanimously approved. **Request to Establish Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock (Res #2012-12) – Exhibit B**

2. Ice House – Appalachian State University (Tabled)

3. High Country Half Marathon – Boone to Blowing Rock (August 25, 2012)

Council was presented with a request from High Country Triple Crown and Zap Fitness to hold the 2nd Annual High Country Half Marathon on Saturday, August 25, 2012. Proceeds from the event would support Girls on the Run in the High Country.

Mr. Hildebran stated the 13.1 mile run would begin at 7:30 a.m. at ASU's Kidd-Brewer Stadium in Boone and conclude at the Blowing Rock Equestrian Preserve. He also mentioned that High Country Triple Crown would be coordinating with the Blowing Rock Police Department as well as the Emergency Services Department regarding traffic control for the event.

Mayor Lawrence asked Police Chief Eric Brown if any issues had occurred previously during this event. Chief Brown stated there were no issues reported. Commissioner Klutz made a motion to approve the request as presented, seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Unanimously approved.

4. 28-Day Short-term Rental Regulations

Mayor Lawrence stated that Commissioners Klutz and Phillips had requested that 28-Day Short-term Rentals be placed on the agenda.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to table this issue until the Planning Department could complete their scheduled survey, seconded by Commissioner Steele. Planning Director Rothrock stated the survey would begin later in the summer with assistance from NC State University. Commissioner Klutz stated this issue had been discussed at the annual Retreat held in January and 4 months had passed since that time. He also stated that he had not understood that NC State University would be assisting with the survey.

Town Manager stated that the Town was awaiting the arrival of residents who left during the winter to return back to Blowing Rock before sending the survey. Commissioner Phillips inquired as to why this had not been conveyed at the Retreat. Commissioner Steele then read a portion of the adopted minutes from the Retreat that pertained to this issue. The minutes stated that Council would not act regarding this item until the survey results had been received.

Audience member Earl Horne commented that he did not understand why the Town had to wait to send the survey until residents returned in order to send an electronic survey, because they would receive an electronic survey by email, etc. Planning Director Rothrock advised that because resident's e-mail addresses were not of record, a letter would be sent to all residents that directed them to an electronic survey if they wished to complete it that way; and if not, a hard-copy of the survey would be mailed to them. Mr. Rothrock also stated that NC State University had advised that they would not be able to assist with the survey until the beginning of the next fiscal year beginning July 1. Mr. Horne then asked why this item had been placed on the agenda since it had been withdrawn and no information had been collected yet. Mayor Lawrence stated it had been placed on the agenda at the request of Commissioners Klutz and Phillips.

Commissioner Phillips remarked that he thought Council would have begun discussing the survey before now. Commissioner Klutz also stated that he had not heard anything about the survey and wanted to inquire about it. He voiced his displeasure that work had not begun yet. Planning Director Rothrock responded that his department had used the time since the Retreat to work on the survey questions. He also advised the survey covered items other than 28-day Short-Term Rentals and that it would be a comprehensive planning survey. Commissioner Klutz asked why the Town couldn't do the survey without the aid of NC State University. Planning Director Rothrock stated the Town did not have the capability to do the survey and that NC State had assisted with the Town's previous surveys.

Audience member Deborah McDowell asked Planning Director Rothrock if he had been available so that Council could call or stop by to inquire about the survey. Mr. Rothrock stated that he had been available to receive calls or to talk to members of Council regarding planning issues. Mr. Rothrock also commented that his department was currently working independently on this item, along with a Planning Board subcommittee. Their findings would be sent to the Planning Board then to Council for final approval. Commissioner Klutz mentioned that he had spoken with Mr. Rothrock asking if the Town Ordinance could be changed to reflect a change in the short-term rental period from 28 days to 7 days. Mr. Rothrock said it could not be changed administratively by staff.

Mayor Lawrence called for a vote on Commissioner Phillip's motion to table this item until the survey results had been received. Unanimously approved.

5. Budget Amendment (Ordinance #2012-06)

Town Manager Hildebran presented Budget Amendment Ordinance #2012-06 for fiscal year 2011-2012 to Council for their consideration.

The proposed budget amendment was outlined as follows: Section 1 (General Fund) allocates BB&T loan proceeds for the purchase of FY 2011-2012 capital equipment as approved by Council at the March 13, 2012 regular meeting. This section also allocates NC Department of Justice grant funds received for the purchase of bullet proof vests.

Commissioner Yount made a motion to approve Budget Amendment Ordinance #2012-06 for the fiscal year 2011-2012 as presented, seconded by Commissioner Matheson. Unanimously approved. **Budget Amendment – (Ord #2012-06) – Exhibit C**

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

OTHER

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with a Proclamation Declaring June 2, 2012 as “Oasis Shriners Day” in Blowing Rock. He stated the Oasis Shriners were scheduled to hold their Spring Ceremonial in Blowing Rock, June 1-3, 2012 with Chetola Resort serving as their host headquarters.

Mr. Hildebran advised that approximately 1,000 visitors were expected during this event. A parade would be held on June 2, 2012 on Main Street consisting of 40 units and up to 200 participants.

A brief history was given regarding the Shriners Hospitals for Children being a one-of-a-kind international health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing specialty pediatric care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to accept the proclamation as written, seconded by Commissioner Klutz Unanimously approved. **Proclamation Welcoming the Oasis Shriners 2012 Spring Ceremonial and Declaring June 2, 2012 as “Oasis Shriners Day” in Blowing Rock – Exhibit D**

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Town Manager Hildebran presented the proposed FY 2012-2013 Budget to Council for their review. He stated the proposed budget totaled \$6,316,205 with an increase of only \$4,655 over last year’s budget. He also advised the recommended tax rate would remain at \$0.28 per \$100 of the valuation as it had been for the past seven (7) years. He stated the recommended water/sewer rates would each increase by \$0.50 per month; however, the interconnection fee would decrease by \$1.00 per month having a zero net affect. All other fees would remain the same.

Mr. Hildebran also reminded everyone of the up-coming budget work sessions scheduled for Monday, May 14 and Tuesday, May 15, 2012 beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Town Hall. Mr. Hildebran also commended staff on the work they had done on the budget.

Finally, Mr. Hildebran extended an invitation to everyone to attend Carol Bolick's 30-Year Retirement Party to be held on May 22, 2012 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Town Hall.

ADJOURN

There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS (May 8, 2012)

Wastewater Treatment Plant CIP Phase II Bid Award – (Res #2012-10) – Exhibit A

Request to Establish Jerry Burns Day in Blowing Rock (Res #2012-12) – Exhibit B

Budget Amendment – (Ord #2012-06) – Exhibit C

Proclamation Welcoming the Oasis Shriners 2012 Spring Ceremonial and Declaring June 2, 2012 as “Oasis Shriners Day” in Blowing Rock – Exhibit D