

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council Mid-Year Retreat**  
**June 22, 2015**

The Blowing Rock Town Council held a Mid-Year Retreat meeting on Monday, June 22, 2015. The retreat was held at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, NC. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro-tem Albert Yount and Council Members Dan Phillips, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Finance Officer Nicole Norman and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

**CALL ORDER**

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 12:35 p.m.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Parking Related**

**1. Update on Parking Enforcement Program**

Town Manager Fogleman stated that currently the areas where the most citations are given are on Main Street from Pine Street to Globe Road and down Sunset Drive from Main St. Council Member Phillips said he would like a comparison of citations given this year versus last year.

Council Member Sweeting commented that she felt merchants and employees continued to park along Main Street. Town Manager Fogleman stated that he would speak with Chief Jones about having police officers visiting businesses along Main Street regarding this issue.

Council Member Matheson also expressed his desire for the Town to work with Rumble Memorial Presbyterian Church regarding the use of their parking lot for public parking. Town Manager Fogleman responded that staff would correspond with the church regarding this issue.

**2. Update regarding parking at Blowing Rock Methodist Church**

Town Manager Fogleman commented due to the lack of parking at the Methodist Church, attendees were parking along both sides of Main Street in that area. Council agreed when officers were available; they should assist with parking on Sunday mornings.

**3. Possibilities of providing dedicated motorcycle parking in downtown in some of the stripped areas where currently no parking is allowed.**

Town Manager Fogleman reviewed various options for potential designated motorcycle parking on Main Street with Council. Council Member Phillips suggested designated motorcycle parking be off Main Street; possibly on Park Avenue. Council directed staff to look into this further.

**4. Parade times (For July 4 and Christmas) and discussion of parking enforcement during same**

Due to merchant complaints and questions regarding parade times, discussions were held with various members of Town staff. After these discussions, Town Manager Fogleman stated they had concluded the earliest start time for a parade would be 10:00 a.m. and the latest time would be 6:00 p.m. Mayor Pro-tem Yount disagreed with the 10:00 a.m. starting time.

Council also agreed parking should not be enforced during parades. It was suggested drawing a chalk line down both sides of Main Street to possibly help with keeping children from going into the street. Council Member Phillips felt it would be helpful for a Police Officer to patrol Main Street on parade days asking attendees to not place their chairs in parking spaces.

Council agreed to change the time for the **Christmas Parade in 2015 to 11:00 a.m.** and the **July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade to 11:00 a.m. in 2016** and to revisit the success of the 2015 Christmas parade start time at the Retreat in January 2016.

**American Legion Building Related Topics**

**5. Whether or not to have American Legion restrooms open for general public use**

Council agreed the restrooms should be closed to the public.

**6. Whether or not to have American Legion Building open for Art in the Park**

Council suggested the restrooms be available during Art in the Park (2015) if the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce would monitor them as well as pay for supplies and to have them cleaned after the events.

**7. Rate confirmation/long term rental pricing structure of the renovated American Legion Building**

Town Manager Fogleman presented Council with a suggested fee schedule for the newly renovated American Legion Building for review. The following fee schedule was decided upon:

<u>Taxpayer Rental Fee</u>	<u>Non-Taxpayer Rental Fee</u>	<u>Deposit</u>
\$50/half day	\$200/half day	\$250
\$100/full day	\$400/full day	\$250

Council stated that civic organizations such as the Rotary Club etc. should be charged the taxpayer rate. They also directed staff to publish the rates on the Town's website, newsletter, etc.

#### **8. Art in the Park on Park Avenue in 2016 as a possibility**

Town Manager Fogleman stated he had spoken with Charles Hardin, Chamber Executive Director regarding Art in the Park locations and it had been suggested these events be held on Park Avenue. He stated that Mr. Hardin felt this would be a better location because it would be a direct link to Main Street and would open up the American Legion Parking Deck.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount stated he had spoken with Town Attorney Moseley regarding this matter and he advised an ordinance modification would be helpful to clarify the purpose of the road closure. Council directed staff to speak with property owners located on Park Avenue about this proposed change. Council Member Matheson also suggested the possibility that a lane could be kept open for thru traffic. Mayor Pro-tem Yount suggested that staff speak with Mr. Hardin regarding a change in location for the last two Art in the Park events in 2015 as well.

### **Funding Related**

#### **9. Funding Request from New River Conservancy**

Town Manager Fogleman stated that the New River Conservancy was developing plans that would restore and protect impaired waters in the New River's watershed in North Carolina. Mr. Fogleman explained that the State and EPA had funding available to help restore the impaired waters back to health; however a Watershed Plan was needed. Town Manager Fogleman further explained the budget totaled \$90,000 for this project and the New River Conservancy was requesting a one-time contribution from the Town in the amount of \$10,000. He stated the Town of Boone, Watauga County and High Country Council of Governments had contributed to the cause as well. Town Manager Fogleman then reviewed the funding sources in which this one-time contribution could be achieved. It was the consensus of Council to approve a one-time contribution of \$10,000 toward this project.

#### **10. Sewer line replacement consideration for the Country Club area (Budget Amendment)**

Town Manager Fogleman stated a sewer line in the vicinity of the newly approved CUP for construction of a fitness center and cart barn at the Blowing Rock Country Club needed to be replaced due to grease build up and old age. This area had also had I & I issues in the past. According to Mr. Fogleman, while construction is in process, it would be a good time to replace the line for an estimated cost of \$69,900. He stated that a cost savings of possibly \$13,000 could be seen if the sewer line was replaced during the construction process. Town Manager Fogleman reviewed funding options and the budget ordinance amendment with Council. Council consensus was to approve the

budget ordinance amendment as presented. **Budget Ordinance Amendment # 2015 \_\_\_ - Attachment A**

### **Operational Related**

#### **11. Health and Dental Care coverage options for domestic partners**

Town Manager Fogleman explained there was now a new insurance coverage option for a domestic partner on the Town's dental and life insurance coverage plan. He asked for Council's feedback regarding the addition of this option on the Town's health and dental insurance plans. Council agreed to add this option to both plans as presented.

#### **12. Accepting donation of the restored 1927 Blowing Rock Fire Truck**

Town Manager Fogleman advised the Blowing Rock Historical Society currently held the title to the 1927 fire truck and wanted to donate it to the Town. He stated the fire truck could be housed at the Fire Station and insurance would be at a minimal cost per year. It was also mentioned that the Historical Society wanted it back if the Town ever decided to get rid of it in the future. Council agreed to accept the donation of the fire truck and to return it to the Historical Society should the Town decide they no longer had a need for it. Council Member Phillips commented the truck should be somewhere where it could be seen. Town Manager Fogleman stated the Fire Department gave tours of the facility and that it would make appearances in the Town parades.

#### **13. Resolution regarding Level III Fire Inspector Service being provided by Caldwell County**

A resolution between Caldwell County and the Town regarding Level III Code Enforcement was presented to Council for approval. Town Manager Fogleman stated the Chestnut Ridge Post Acute Care facility is the only facility in Town that requires a level III inspection and Caldwell County had agreed to provide this service to the Town. Council consensus was to accept the resolution as presented. **Caldwell County Interlocal Agreement to Temporarily Provide Code Enforcement Services to the Town of Blowing Rock – Attachment B**

#### **14. Pursuit of renaming Valley Boulevard to Blowing Rock Boulevard through the Town limits**

Town Manager Fogleman stated during a recent TDA meeting, discussion had taken place regarding Valley Boulevard having several different names. Mr. Fogleman asked Council what their thoughts were on this topic. They agreed that the portion of Hwy. 321 in the Town limits should remain Valley Boulevard and be consistently named as such.

At 3:30 p.m. Council Member Sweeting made a motion to move into Closed Session pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11.(a)(1), seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

### **ADJOURN**

At 4:10 P.M. Council reentered their mid-year retreat, and with there being no further business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

**MAYOR** \_\_\_\_\_ **ATTEST** \_\_\_\_\_  
**J.B. Lawrence** **Sharon Greene, Town Clerk**

**ATTACHMENTS** (06-22-2015)

Budget Ordinance Amendment # 2015 \_\_\_\_ - Attachment A  
Caldwell County Interlocal Agreement to Temporarily Provide Code Enforcement Services to the Town of Blowing Rock – Attachment B