

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
January 12, 2016

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 12, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, N.C. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro-tem Albert Yount and Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Wilcox, Police Chief Tony Jones, Building Inspector John Warren, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced the Holiday Inn Express Conditional Use Permit topic was not on the agenda for discussion. Council must hear the case in a quasi-judicial meeting. He advised the Holiday Inn Express CUP public hearing would be properly advertised once it was placed on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Pickett made a motion to approve the December 8, 2015, meeting minutes as written, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Highway #21 Valley Boulevard Construction Update

Kipp Turner stated that all curb and guttering had been installed from West Cornish Road to South Main Street and that all aprons had been poured with the exception of the Citgo Gas Station area. He also commented that the first highway split would most likely take place from Samaritan's Purse to South Main Street and the public would be notified several days in advance.

Mr. Turner stated the walls below the road near Chetola were nearing completion. He also advised if the weather permitted, additional paving was planned.

Council Member Matheson asked Mr. Turner if he anticipated further closures of the Sunset Drive intersection. Mr. Turner explained there could possibly be 1 or 2 days the area might be closed; however he didn't anticipate long-term closures like the three weeks identified in the contract.

Mayor Pro Tem Yount asked regarding the status of the wall near the No. 4 Blowing Rock County Club hole. Mr. Turner stated the form liner had been matched and the veneer had been approved. The wall would be constructed in the upcoming construction season.

Council Member Matheson also asked if the shotcrete below Cliff Dwellers Inn was complete. Mr. Turner explained a new layer of shotcrete would be completed by NCDOT in the spring or early summer.

Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Turner for the monthly update.

Resolution in Support of Connect NC Bond Referendum

Town Manager Fogleman stated that a \$2 billion bond North Carolina initiative would be placed on the North Carolina Primary Election Ballot in March of 2016. He stated the link to the NC Connect Bond Initiative site was www.connect.nc.gov. Mr. Fogleman also stated if the referendum passed, the Town would be eligible to compete for approximately \$312,000,000 in grant funding.

Council Member Steele made a motion to approve the Resolution as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved. **A Resolution of the Town of Blowing Rock Town Council Supporting North Carolina's "Connect NC Bond Proposal" for Referendum Vote on March 15, 2016 – Attachment A**

Village Foundation of Blowing Rock Organization Purpose and Donation

Mr. John Aldridge, representing the Village Foundation of Blowing Rock began by saying that Blowing Rock had a rich history of philanthropy that included Moses Cone Park, Broyhill Park, Annie Cannon Park, etc. He commented that even though other Towns such as West Jefferson, Black Mountain, Highlands, etc. were comparable to Blowing Rock, our Town remained one of the top tourist destinations in North Carolina. Mr. Aldridge stated in order for Blowing Rock to continue to improve, a vehicle was needed in order to not rely solely on Town government funds.

Mr. Aldridge gave more insight to those present regarding the newly-formed Village Foundation of Blowing Rock. He stated the organization was a non-profit foundation and all gifts were tax-deductible. Their mission was to aid with the economic development of the Town while lessening the governmental burden.

Mr. Aldridge advised the gift policy included four (4) types; unrestricted, restricted, endowment, and non-cash and everyone was encouraged to participate. In closing, Mr. Aldridge presented Mayor Lawrence with a \$2,500 check to the Town to be utilized toward winter lighting. Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Aldridge and the Village Foundation for their hard work.

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Fogleman presented the following Consent Agenda items.

1. Budget Ordinance Amendment to Account For Various Items

Budget ordinance amendments have been prepared for Council consideration including the combination of the budgets for Streetscape Phases 5 and 6 into one project budget as they are being planned for simultaneous execution as well as the adjustments in funding and account distribution for the Chestnut Ridge Water and Sewer project to reflect Council's prior approval of the project bid in October, 2015. **Budget Amendment Ordinance #2015-06 – Attachment B**

2. Surplus Equipment Resolution

From time to time various pieces of equipment or office furniture are no longer needed. Council is authorized to sell personal property by electronic auction upon adoption of a resolution. At this time, several old pieces of equipment and furniture from the American Legion Building prior to its renovation, bathroom fixtures from the old Visitor Center, two trucks (a 1994 Chevy S-10 and a 2004 Ford F-150), and the six lights previously hanging in the Council Chambers have been identified as surplus. **Resolution Declaring Surplus Property & Authorizing Disposal #2015-14 – Attachment C**

3. Stick Boy Mayview Madness 5K and Kids 1 Mile Fun Run Date of September 3, 2016

The Blue Ridge Conservancy has requested the date of Saturday, September 3, 2016 for their annual Mayview Madness Fun Run.

4. Blowing Rock Fall Classic Bile Ride Coordinated by Blood, Sweat, and Gears Date of September 24, 2016

The Blood, Sweat, and Gears Events, Inc. has requested approval of Saturday, September 24, 2016 for the Blowing Rock Fall Classic bike race. The event as proposed will begin and end on Park Avenue. This will be the second year of this race. The 2015 event, held on Saturday, September 26, was shortened significantly in distance due to the wet, cool weather that day.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve all Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Snowflake Parade on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. as Part of Winterfest Activities

Mr. David Harwood, Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce Government and Community Liaison, stated Appalachian State University Athletics and Band had recently expressed interest in participating in the WinterFest Snowflake Parade to be held on January 30, 2016. The parade would most likely involve ASU Chancellor Sheri Everts, athletic directors, coaches, football team members, etc. Should Council approve this one-time event, Town of Blowing Rock staff resources would be necessary.

Council Member Steele asked how much larger this parade would be than originally planned and if the Town's budget included this increased manpower. Chamber Executive Director, Charles Hardin stated the Snowflake Parade would not be as large as the July 4th Parade. Town Manager Fogleman explained he didn't feel the Town would be impacted significantly and the majority of employees needed from the Parks & Recreation Department, Police Department, etc. would most likely accrue comp-time.

Mr. Hardin also mentioned that John Carter from WBTV would be the emcee for the event. Mayor Lawrence stated ASU deserved a parade after their recent victory.

With no further comments, Council Member Pickett made a motion to approve the Snowflake Parade request as presented, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

[A Resolution of the Town of Blowing Rock Town Council Supporting North Carolina's "Connect NC Bond Proposal" for Referendum Vote on March 15, 2016 – Attachment A](#)
[Budget Amendment Ordinance #2015-06 – Attachment B](#)
[Resolution Declaring Surplus Property & Authorizing Disposal #2015-14 – Attachment C](#)