

**MINUTES**  
**Town of Blowing Rock**  
**Town Council Mid-Year Retreat**  
**June 27, 2016**

The Blowing Rock Town Council held a Mid-Year Retreat meeting on Monday, June 27, 2016. 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 Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson, and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Assistant Parks and Recreation Director Autumn Goheen, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Tony Jones, Interim Town Clerk Hilari Hubner and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

**CALL ORDER**

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS**

**Town of Blowing Rock Parks and Recreation Facebook Page**

Town Manager Scott Fogleman begin by officially introducing new Assistant Parks and Recreation Director, Autumn Goheen. Mr. Fogleman advised Council that Mrs. Goheen and Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown had an idea to create a dedicated Parks and Recreation Facebook page to have a social media presence. Mrs. Goheen presented via a live demonstration what the Facebook Page would entail as well as positive benefits to having a social media outlet. It was the consensus of Council to proceed with establishing a Parks and Recreation Facebook Page.

**Pickle Ball**

Autumn Goheen showed a video about Pickle Ball, a new fast growing sport in the country. Mr. Fogleman briefed Council on the proposed location and also stated the portable equipment to set up three (3) courts is approximately \$900.00. Mr. Fogleman advised Council that Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown has recently received a number of requests to add Pickle Ball courts to the park. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of Council to proceed with the request.

**Tree Report**

Town Manager Fogleman shared with Council for general information purposes an official tree report that was done by a representative of the National Park Service. Mr. Fogleman explained the trees in Memorial Park as well as the tree in front of Town Hall were evaluated and the determination is all of the mature trees are in generally in a state of decline. Mr. Fogleman further explained Town staff will begin to diversify the species of trees that are in the park to keep up with diseases that could possibly come in and wipe

out all the trees of that type. There was brief discussion about cutting dead and or dying trees and replanting with new trees. Council asked that a cost estimate be prepared to provide information regarding the replacement cost of all the trees with sizable new trees for future Council consideration. Depending on the cost to replace them, one of the options may be to phase in the replacements over several years.

### **Recycling**

Town Manager Fogleman gave Council a brief summary update on the Town's Public Recycling Program including costs and locations.

### **Short term Rental**

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock advised Council that recently a request was made by a home owner on Green Street to allow short-term rental in the R-6M zoning district within the Green Street neighborhood. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of Council not to consider the short-term rental request.

### **Business Diversity**

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock advised Council with a couple of options to consider to limit the type of uses allowed in the street level (first floor) along Main Street in the Town Center District. Mayor Pro-tem expressed that he didn't want to disrupt the free market and he felt as though real estate firms would feel targeted. After a brief discussion it was the consensus of Council to let the Planning Board take a look at options related to encouraging a vibrant and diverse business mix downtown and to involve the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce as well.

### **Old Fire House**

Town Manager Fogleman advised Council the School of Government Development Finance Initiative Group (DFI) met with Town staff to discuss development opportunities for the former Fire House. During the meeting the DFI Group felt they would also like to examine the former Fire House within the context of the entire Town including a review of the various Town studies previously completed.

Mr. Fogleman explained in speaking with the DFI Group it was determined that just looking at the Old Fire House could be assigned as a class project at The School of Government MPA program which would be free. Mr. Fogleman explained if the DFI group does the project the cost to the Town would be \$12,000.00.

Council Member Pickett commented the Town just payed to have a Comprehensive Plan done recently which provided a great deal of information about the Town.

It was the consensus of Council to ask DFI to have an MPA class complete this project to examine alternative uses and approach for the former Fire House.

### **Downtown Utility Study Update**

Town Engineer Doug Chapman presented via PowerPoint presentation regarding the Utility Conversion Study. **Utility Conversion Study PowerPoint- Attachment A**

### **Engineering RFQ**

Town Manager Fogleman presented Council with a sample Request for Qualifications (RFQ) document and schedule to determine if other Engineering Firms are interested in serving the Town. Mr. Steele and Mr. Yount offered to participate along with a staff team in a preliminary review of all RFQs received to help reduce the applicants to a short list that would then be considered by the full Council. After a brief discussion, Council approved moving forward with the RFQ process.

### **Parking Enforcement**

Police Chief Tony Jones gave Council an update on the current status of daytime parking enforcement. Mr. Jones explained that most of the parking tickets are being written to visitors and suggested implementing a one-time warning ticket for first time offenders. The consensus of Council was to try this approach and give Council an update of the progress after a couple months. Council also discussed the current status of overnight parking enforcement and after a brief discussion, directed that enforcement continue until alternatives could be developed for Council consideration.

### **ADJOURN**

At 5:15 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** **Hilari Hubner, Interim Town Clerk**

### **ATTACHMENTS**

**Utility Conversion Study PowerPoint - Attachment A**  
**Mid-Year Retreat Materials – Attachment B**