

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

Special Meeting – August 1, 2007

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners held a special meeting at 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, August 1, 2007. The meeting was held in the conference room at Town Hall. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Rita Wiseman, Keith Tester, and Tommy Klutz. Commissioner Terry Lentz was unable to attend. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Hildebran and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Town Manager Hildebran presented Resolution #2007-10 In Support of Funding for Truck-Actuated Beacons for U.S. 221 in Blowing Rock and Linville. A motion to approve Resolution #2007-10 was made by Commissioner Wiseman, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Commissioner Klutz stated in his opinion a more suitable place for the beacons would be on 321 Business before trucks got to Hwy. 221 because there was no place for large trucks to turn around once they were on that road. Mayor Lawrence mentioned a sign could be installed somewhere between Knights on Main and the vacant lot near Speckled Trout, giving notice to truckers regarding the narrow, curvy condition of Hwy. 221. Council suggested that a signed and designated turn-around along Hwy. 221 may be more prudent. After some discussion, the Board expressed concern about the amount of signage being located in the downtown area. Town Manager Hildebran stated that N.C.D.O.T would eventually decide the location for the sign. With no further discussion, Commissioner Wiseman's motion was unanimously approved.
Resolution #2007-10 Exhibit A

OTHER

Town Manager Hildebran reminded Council of the special meeting to be held on August 7, 2007 at 4:00 p.m. to discuss several engineering projects with McGill Associates.

He also mentioned several citizens had approached town staff regarding the Chamber of Commerce 20-20 Vision initiatives and their misconception that the town was overseeing this effort. Mr. Hildebran stated that staff needed some direction as these items were potentially planning & zoning issues that would require public hearings and approval from Council. He also requested Council guidance relative to town staff participation with these efforts. Commissioner Tester spoke of his support for the Chamber of Commerce and their desire to become more of a Chamber, but he expressed some concern with the direction of the initiatives. He suggested that a meeting would be helpful between Council and the Chamber to further discuss the direction they were planning to take regarding this issue. Council

expressed the following concerns: overlap and duplication of town efforts and responsibilities – specifically planning, zoning and beautification related issues; the effect of the duplication efforts on members of town-appointed boards; and the effect on ongoing town planning initiatives – specifically the downtown streetscape plan and the NCDOT U.S. 321 widening landscape plan.

Commissioner Klutz stated that Council should work towards preserving the Town as it is since Blowing Rock is the epitome of what a town should be and that all of the towns suggested for visitation by Vision 20-20 want to be like Blowing Rock. He questioned why people who moved here wanted to change the town and copy other places.

Commissioner Wiseman stated through town ordinances Council was trying to keep Blowing Rock moving in the right direction regarding growth and change, while maintaining the character and these responsibilities fall on the town.

Commissioner Ball stated that Council had made tough decisions over the years to retain our community character. She also advised that the Planning Board, Board of Adjustment and the Appearance Advisory Commission had provided countless hours of service in the planning and beautification of the town and any potential duplication or overlap might discourage future service.

It was consensus of Council that a work session between Council and the Chamber of Commerce Executive Committee needed to be scheduled in order to express Council's concerns and develop a mutually cooperative direction for the effort.

Mayor Lawrence agreed to contact Chamber President Pam Vines to request a meeting on the matter.

Commissioners Wiseman and Ball commented on how beautiful the hanging baskets and flower gardens in town were and what a great job the Blowing Rock Appearance Advisory Commission were doing.

Commissioner Wiseman also requested that a police officer patrol the downtown area on weekends. Mr. Hildebran stated the police department was short-handed at the present time due to a patrol officer vacancy and a pending vacancy with Officer Webb's military activation, but he would relay the comments to Chief Eric Brown.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

MAYOR

J.B. Lawrence

Attest: _____

Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

Attachments

Resolution #2007-10 Exhibit A