

MINUTES

Town of Blowing Rock

Board of Commissioners

Regular Meeting –December 11, 2007

The Town of Blowing Rock Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 11, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Commissioners Bobby Ball, Keith Tester, Terry Lentz, Rita Wiseman and Tommy Klutz. Commissioners elect Albert Yount and Phillip Pickett also attended. Others present were Town Manager Scott Hildebran, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineers Doug Chapman and Andy Lovingood, Police Chief Eric Brown, Public Works Director Johnny Lentz, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Building Inspector Jesse Horner, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Emergency Services Director Kent Graham, and Town Clerk Sharon Greene.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present.

PRESENTATION

Mayor Lawrence asked Police Chief Eric Brown to come forward to receive a certificate for completion of the 19th North Carolina Justice Academy Management Development Program. Course Coordinator Bob Garbett presented Chief Brown with his certificate of completion which consisted of one year of classes for a total of 480 hours. Mr. Garbett stated that Chief Brown was voted class president and was highly regarded by his peers. He stated that several police officers from other areas of the state were in attendance to show their support of Chief Brown.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Wiseman made a motion to accept minutes for meetings held on November 13th and 14th as well as meetings held on December 6th, 2007 which included closed session minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Lentz. Commissioner Tester stated on the December 6th

minutes a correction was needed on page 3, paragraph two that reads: *Mr. Brew stated that right of way acquisitions would be completed by June 2008*, Mr. Tester stated this should read *that acquisitions would commence by June 2008*. Commissioner Wiseman amended her motion to include the correction. Commissioner Lentz seconded the amended motion. Unanimously approved.

PRESENTATION IN HONOR OF OUTGOING COUNCILMEMBERS

Mayor Lawrence called on Commissioner Wiseman to come forward and receive a plaque of appreciation for her 12 years of service as a Council Member from 1995-2007. Mayor Lawrence commended Ms. Wiseman on the wonderful job she had done during her tenure. Ms. Wiseman addressed the audience by saying she had thoroughly enjoyed her time on the Town Council. Ms. Wiseman also commended Town Manager Hildebran and all of the Town staff on the great job they do.

Next, Mayor Lawrence called Commissioner Lentz forward to receive his plaque of appreciation. Mayor Lawrence stated that Commissioner Lentz had served on the Town Council from 1991 to 2007 starting as a member on the Parks & Recreation and Planning Boards. Mayor Lawrence commended Mr. Lentz on the great job he had done while serving the Town of Blowing Rock. Mr. Lentz thanked everyone and stated he had enjoyed his time on the Town Council. He also commended the Town staff on the job they do.

RECESS MEETING

Mayor Lawrence called for a short recess at 7:10 p.m.

During the recess Town Clerk Greene administered the Oath of Office to Mayor Lawrence for his upcoming term. Mayor Lawrence then administered the Oath of Office to newly elected council members Phillip Picket and Albert Yount. **Lawrence Oath of Office – Exhibit A – Yount Oath of Office – Exhibit B – Pickett Oath of Office – Exhibit C**

Mayor Lawrence reconvened the meeting at 7:15 p.m. and welcomed the newest members of Council.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO TEM

Commissioner Ball nominated Commissioner Keith Tester for Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

Sworn to speak during the public hearing were Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Randy Jones and Steven Goldfarb.

1. CUP 2007-13 – Goldfarb Commercial Building

Planning Director Rothrock presented Council with a request from Mr. Steven Goldfarb for a conditional use permit to make significant exterior changes to the former Eugenia's/David Baskin Realty building located at 7668 Valley Boulevard. He stated the plans indicated new windows and doors, stonework, new entry ramps and a new paint scheme.

Mr. Rothrock advised the following suggestions had been made by staff:

- All service utility lines should be placed underground
- The dumpster should be screened and moved to the southeast corner of the building or roll out containers should be used
- The propane tank should be buried or painted and screened with landscaping.
- A handicap-accessible parking space should be installed according to Building Code

During the Planning Board meeting held on November 15th, a recommendation was made to approve the conditional use permit with the conditions noted by staff.

Randy Jones of Jones Architecture spoke regarding the project stating the anticipated use would possibly be retail in one area and a real estate office in the other. According to Mr. Jones the upstairs would have a conference room and some office space. He also stated the outside staircase would be reworked for safety purposes and that his client was in favor of the suggestions that staff had offered.

Commissioner Klutz questioned if a dumpster was going to be located in the rear of the building near the creek. Mr. Jones stated that more than likely his client would be using the roll-out containers.

Mr. Jones advised that a minor change might be needed regarding an awning located on the side of the building later in the renovation process. Commissioner Yount asked if this could be handled by the planning staff. Mr. Rothrock replied that it could.

With no further questions, Commissioner Tester made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved.

A motion to accept CUP 2007-13 which was to include Mr. Yount's recommendation to address the awning administratively was made by Commissioner Ball, seconded by Commissioner Klutz. Unanimously approved. **CUP 2007-13 Goldfarb Commercial Building – Exhibit D**

NEW BUSINESS

1. FY 2007-2008 Audit Contract

Town Manager Hildebran presented Council with the FY 2007-08 Audit Contract between the Town of Blowing Rock and Combs, Tennant, & Carpenter, P.C. Mr. Hildebran conveyed the contract would not exceed \$19,500 and would include all GASB #34 auditing standards.

Commissioner Tester made a motion to accept FY 2007-08 Audit Contract as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ball. Unanimously approved. **FY 2007-08 Audit Contract – Exhibit E**

2. Tax Releases/Refunds

Town Manager Hildebran presented Tax Release #2007-11 and Tax Refund #2007-02 to Council for their consideration. Mr. Hildebran advised the refund/release had been reviewed by the Tax Collector and met the statutory requirements set forth in North Carolina General Statutes. Mr. Hildebran stated that Release #2007-11 for \$283.08 and Refund #2007-02 for \$283.08 was to Mr. Paul Peterson for an appeal of property assessment on parcel number 2817-55-3185-000.

A motion was given by Commissioner Pickett, seconded by Commissioner Ball to approve Release #2007-11 and Refund #2007-02 for \$283.08 as presented. Unanimously approved. **Release #2007-02 – Exhibit F Refund #2007-02 – Exhibit G**

3. **Budget Amendment (Ordinance #2007-11)**

Ordinance #2007-11 was presented to Council for a budget amendment for the fiscal year 2007-2008 for their consideration. Town Manager Hildebran advised the amendment was to the General Capital Projects Fund to allocate donated funds received from various entities (Broyhill Foundation, BR Community Foundation, Blowing Rock ABC Board and a N.C. PARTF Grant) for the Parks & Recreation Swimming Pool Improvement Project as well as donated funds received from the Blowing Rock TDA for the American Legion Parking Facility.

A motion to accept Ordinance #2007-11 as presented was made by Commissioner Tester, seconded by Commissioner Pickett. Unanimously approved. **Ordinance #2007-11 – Exhibit H**

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

Town Manager Hildebran recognized Mayor Lawrence for recently being voted Outstanding Executive Board Member by the High Country Council of Governments.

He also thanked Parks & Recreation, Public Works and the Emergency Services Department for the outstanding job they did during the Christmas in the Park celebration.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mayor Lawrence wished everyone a Merry Christmas and adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Mayor _____

J.B. Lawrence

Attest: _____

Sharon Greene, Town Clerk

Attachments

Lawrence Oath of Office – Exhibit A

Yount Oath of Office – Exhibit B

Pickett Oath of Office – Exhibit C

CUP 2007-13 Goldfarb Commercial Building – Exhibit D

FY 2007-2008 Audit Contract – Exhibit E

Tax Release #2007-11 – Exhibit F

Tax Refund #2007-02 – Exhibit G

Ordinance #2007-11 – Exhibit H