

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
January 10, 2017

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 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, Andy Lovingood from McGill (Town Engineer Doug Chapman was unable to attend), Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Wilcox, Fire Chief Kent Graham, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Mayor Lawrence introduced and welcomed newly selected Town Manager, Ed Evans. Mr. Evans will officially assume the role of Town Manager on Monday, January 23, 2017.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the minutes for the closed session meeting held on December 13, 2016 as written and the regular Council Meeting held on December 13, 2016 with the following addition to the Tussell Land Company Public Hearing: Council Member Sweeting asked the representatives of Enterline & Russell what their occupancy rate was. Tom Enterline's response was 100%. The motion was seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Highway 321 Valley Boulevard Construction Update

Kipp Turner of Maymead Construction began his monthly update on the Highway Widening Project by stating the Norwood Circle intersection was re-opened right before Christmas. Mr. Turner advised underground duct bank work continues from Norwood Circle toward the Green Park Inn area.

Mr. Turner stated a large concrete box was placed in front of the old Goforth Road intersection and will be used as a junction box for AT&T. Mr. Turner further advised no more road closures are expected during the remaining duct bank work.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked Mr. Turner about the progress of the street lighting on Hwy 321. Mr. Turner advised NCDOT has done the conduit work for the pedestrian lights and

street lights and that Blue Ridge Electric is doing the work for the lighting. Town Manager Fogleman stated initially Blue Ridge Electric was to start this installation in the fall, but they are working thru details with the State Historic Preservation Office to get a consistent brightness of the bulb. Once the details are worked out, installation of the lights is expected to begin. Council Member Sweeting asked Mr. Turner if the conduits were in. Mr. Turner advised that they are. Council Member Sweeting stated it is very dark on Hwy 321. Mr. Turner advised he has received that feedback as well.

Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Turner for his update.

Resolution Supporting Public Safety Responders Regarding Horton Fire

Mayor Lawrence presented a resolution supporting Public Safety Responders regarding the Horton Fire. **Resolution Supporting Public Safety Responders Regarding Horton Fire – Attachment A**

Employee Service Awards

Town Manager Fogleman presented service and recognition awards to several Town staff members: Trathen Greene – 10 years; Kevin Rothrock – 15 years; Tim Everhart – 30 years; Kent Graham – Outstanding Achievement of 2016 (Horton Fire); Nicole Norman – Outstanding Achievement of 2016 (General Obligation Bond); Linda Steen – Customer Service.

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Fogleman presented the following consent agenda items:

1. Tax Releases and Refunds

Various tax adjustments over time become apparent and present themselves in the form of requests for releases (adjustments) and refunds. There are currently two tax releases totaling \$850.90 and with three tax refunds totaling \$1,013.29 that have been identified for Council approval.

A motion was made by Council Member Sweeting to approve all Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved. **Tax Releases and Refunds Attachment - B**

PUBLIC HEARINGS

None

DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Blowing Rock Fall Classic Bike Ride Date – September 16, 2017

Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown stated Scott Nelson, Director of Blood Sweat and Gears, has requested to hold their 3rd annual Blowing Rock Fall Classic bike

ride on Saturday, September 16, 2017. Mrs. Brown advised the race will begin on Park Avenue and make a loop going through Happy Valley, Collettsville, Linville, and back to Park Avenue.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve the Blowing Rock Fall Classic Bike Race, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

2. Mayview Madness Run Date – September 30, 2017

Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown stated the Blue Ridge Conservancy has requested to hold their 18th annual Blowing Rock Mayview Madness 5K/Fun Run road race on Saturday, September 30, 2017. Mrs. Brown advised the Fun Run will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Park Avenue and continue on Laurel Lane to Clark Street, loop around Davant Field and then return to the finish at the rear of Memorial Park. Mrs. Brown further advised the proposed route of the 5K Road Race will begin at 8:30 a.m. at the rear of Memorial Park, continue up to the Mayview area, follow Hwy 221 to Clark Street and finish at Bistro Roca.

Council Member Pickett made a motion to approve the Mayview Madness Run Date, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mr. David Harwood of 191 Chestnut Drive thanked Mayor Lawrence, Town Council and the Town for their decision to allow Wallingford Street to be blocked off for a designated sledding location. Mr. Harwood stated he hopes it's a tradition that has started and will continue as it brings fun to the Town residents as well as visitors.

OTHER BUSINESS

Town Manager Fogleman gave an update on the Hwy 321 speeding issue. Mr. Fogleman stated Chief Jones and his Police Officers are continuing to monitor traffic. Mr. Fogleman advised in the last several months a number of tickets and warnings have been issued for speeding. More tickets have been issued than warnings to let people know that 35 mph is the speed limit in that corridor. Mr. Fogleman further advised staff is continuing to work with NCDOT to install additional speed limit signs along that corridor.

Council Member Sweeting asked Planning Director Kevin Rothrock if he had a status update on the progress of the old hospital removal. Mr. Rothrock stated a demolition permit had been issued and removal should begin in the near future. Council Member Sweeting asked if Mr. Rothrock knew which direction, North or South, on Hwy 321 the demolition trucks would be going. Mr. Rothrock stated he wasn't sure, Council Member Sweeting advised he be aware that is a bad corner to turn out of.

Council Member Steele asked Public Works Director Mike Wilcox if people followed the directional signs on Main Street and Sunset Drive for snow removal during the last snow. Mr. Wilcox advised they did and that everything went very well.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:33 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Yount made a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.318.11 (A) (3), seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

Following Executive Session, Council re-entered the regular meeting at 7:10 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Resolution Supporting Public Safety Responders Regarding Horton Fire – Attachment A

Tax Releases and Refunds Attachment - B