

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
May 9, 2017

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 9, 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 Ed Evans, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Wilcox, Fire Chief Kent Graham, Police Chief Tony Jones, Parks & Recreation Director Jennifer Brown and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

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

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Pickett made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. 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 traffic shift in the Green Park Inn area was done to allow the removal of the old road bed to be completed and the completion of the remaining storm drainage work. Mr. Turner advised weather permitting the base asphalt should be applied soon.

Mr. Turner advised work is currently being done in the Country Club drive area. Mr. Turner explained they ran into some issues with unsuitable soils that have since been replaced. Mr. Turner advised paving will take place soon in that area which will be the widening for the turn lane as well as the first layer of surface on that intersection.

Mr. Turner stated very few sidewalks are left in the Green Park area, one of the areas should be completed soon. Mr. Turner advised another traffic shift is scheduled soon, weather permitting. Mr. Turner explained after the completion of the minor paving and the sidewalks, the traffic switch will be moving all the traffic in the North bound lane from Norwood Circle to the old Goforth Road intersection. Mr. Turner further explained once that is completed it will allow work to be done in the South bound lane from Pinnacle Ave to the old Goforth intersection finishing up curb & guttering and asphalt. Mr. Turner advised there will not be a sidewalk on that side of the road.

Mayor Lawrence thanked Mr. Turner for his update.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on April 11, 2017, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Ed Evans presented the following consent agenda items:

1. Relay Race – Request for use of facilities

Parks and Recreation received a request from the Blue Ridge Relay, to use our pool parking lot on Friday, September 8, 2017 from 3:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. as one of their exchange zones along the race route. This is their 13th annual road race that begins at Grayson Highlands Park in Virginia and ends in downtown Asheville. They have used the pool parking lot the past three years as an exchange point and it has worked out very well. The pool parking lot is adjacent to the race route which runs from 321 to 221 and past Grandfather Mountain. They have also referenced the possibility of using the restrooms at the pool again this year. There would not be a scheduling conflict because the pool will be closed for the season on Monday, September 4, 2017. The Blue Ridge Relay had a very low impact on the pool parking lot and restrooms the past two years.

2. Blowing Rock Foundation – Memorandum of Agreement – Firehouse

Town Council reviewed previous memorandum for the Old Fire House at the February Town Council Meeting. Changes were made to the agreement consistent with Council's request. Those Changes are reflected in this revised MOA. **Old Fire House Memorandum of Agreement - Attachment A**

3. Tax Release – Crippen Hospitality (Personal Property)

Taxes for personal property were assessed by mistake after the business had closed. The amount of the release is \$945.29. **Tax Release Crippen Hospitality - Attachment B**

4. Resolution – Municipal Insurance Trust of North Carolina

In order to participate in the NC League of Municipalities insurance pool, the NCLM requires the governing body to adopt a resolution of participation. **Resolution – Municipal Insurance Trust of North Carolina – Attachment C**

Mayor Pro-tem Yount made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, Council Member Pickett seconded the motion, unanimously approved.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Heather Ridge Annexation

Town Manager Evans stated Mr. Richard Cammerer, General Partner of Woodstock Capital, LP submitted a petition of voluntary annexation for Council's consideration in April, which initiated the annexation process. Town Manager Evans advised tonight's public hearing is the second and final step of the voluntary annexation process. The property is partially in the Town limits and partially in the ETJ.

Mayor Lawrence asked for public comment or questions. With no comments or questions Council Member Sweeting made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve the annexation, seconded by Council Member Steele. Unanimously approved. **Heather Ridge Annexation – Attachment D**

OLD BUSINESS

Report from Destination by Design – Gateway update

Teresa Buckwalter from Destination by Design presented via PowerPoint a concept plan for Sunset Drive streetscape. **Destination by Design PowerPoint – Attachment E**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Buses – Consideration of purchase

Town Manager Evans advised the past several years Parks and Recreation has been allowed to borrow First Baptist Church's buses for field trips during the summer months because our 15-passenger van cannot hold the number of children and counselors that we take on trips. Town Manager Evans further advised First Baptist Church contacted the Town to see if we would be interested in purchasing one or both buses because they no longer have enough youth to justify keeping them. Town Manager Evans stated they wanted to give the Town the first option to purchase them and if the Town chooses not to purchase them then they will sell them to someone else. Steve Norris, the Town's Fleet Mechanic inspected both buses and determined the following:

Blue Bus- 2001 Ford E-350 has 59,220 miles, 15-passenger, and the repairs needed are: two rear tires and some minor cosmetic work. Estimated cost of repairs \$350.

Red Bus- 2001 Ford E-450 has 89,121 miles, 14-passeger, and the repairs needed are: front and rear breaks, six new tires, front air conditioning needs to be repaired and a tune up. Estimated Cost \$1,800.

Both buses have a large storage area to haul coolers, lunch boxes and supplies for field trips.

Town Manager Evans stated Mr. Norris estimated that the value of the blue bus is \$7,500 and the red bus is \$4,500 for a total value of \$12,000. After inspection, Town Manager Evans recommended that the Town offer First Baptist Church \$5,000 for both and then the Town could make the needed repairs. Town Manager Evans advised Church leaders considered the offer and agreed to the price, pending Council's decision.

Town Manager Evans stated if the buses were purchased, and with Council's approval, the Town would then surplus the current bus to recoup some of the money spent.

Council Member Sweeting asked where the buses would be parked. Ms. Brown advised during summer camp the buses would be parked by Parks and Recreation and the remainder of the year at Davant Field.

Council Member Steele advised he recalls when the buses were purchased for First Baptist Church the red bus broke down often and was constantly in and out of the shop. Council Member Steele further advised the Town should request a report on all the repairs that have ever been made to the vehicle.

Council Member Sweeting asked if in the four (4) years Parks and Recreation has borrowed the buses if they have ever broken down and if they have driven them for out of town fieldtrip's. Ms. Brown advised they have not ever broken down and they have driven them out of town many times.

Charles Hardin commented from the audience when First Baptist Church purchased the buses the blue bus was purchased brand new and the red bus was bought used. It was an old airport shuttle.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked if the Town were to purchase one new bus what size would be needed. Ms. Brown advised the Town would have to have a 30-passenger bus and state law would require someone with a commercial driver's license (CDL) to drive. Mayor Pro-tem Yount advised he would feel better if the Town bought a new vehicle as it will be carrying young children.

Council Member Steele asked if Parks and Recreation could get by with purchasing only one of the buses. Ms. Brown advised they would, but they would have to keep the current van. The majority agreed the current van isn't in very good condition and needs to be replaced.

Council Member Matheson commented he feels since the Town Mechanic has looked at the buses and says they are in good condition and reliable he feels good about that.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to purchase the two buses from First Baptist Church, seconded by Council Member Pickett. For: Council Member Sweeting, voted in favor of the motion. Against: Council Member Steele and Mayor Pro-tem Yount, motion approved.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Town Manager Evans gave a brief report to Council:

- Budget Workshops are scheduled for May 31, June 1 & 2 all starting at 6-8 p.m.

- GovDeals Sales – 2006 Chevrolet Colorado sold for \$3,561.25 (net of fee), 2000 Ford F150 XL sold for \$1,174.75 (net of fee) and thirty-four (34) overhead light fixtures sold for \$45.00 (net of fee).
- Local road resurfacing includes the following streets: Hilltop Way, Skyland View, Church Street, Galax, Edith Lane, Green Hill Road, Green Hill Woods, Pinnacle Drive, Ridgecrest Lane, Trillium Lane, Village Drive and Wonderland Trail
- Gateway Public Meetings are scheduled for May 23rd and May 30th from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m. at The American Legion
- Graduation – Municipal Administration – Town Manager Ed Evans complete the 8-month program at The School of Government.
- Town Manager Evans presented Council the Managers Recommended budget for FY 17-18

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Old Fire House Memorandum of Agreement - Attachment A

Tax Release Crippen Hospitality - Attachment B

Resolution – Municipal Insurance Trust of North Carolina – Attachment C

Heather Ridge Annexation – Attachment D

Destination by Design PowerPoint – Attachment E