

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
April 10, 2018

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, N.C. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Albert Yount and Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Virginia Powell. Others in attendance were Town Manager Ed Evans, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, 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 Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to adopt the agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Police Chief Tony Jones recognized Police Captain Aaron Miller for his recent graduation from the Law Enforcement Executive program. Mayor Sellers presented Captain Miller an award in recognition.

Police Chief Jones recognized Sharon VanDyke for 21 years of service for Public Safety Telecommunications Week. Mayor Sellers presented Ms. VanDyke with an award in recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on March 13, 2018 and the March 22 and 26, 2018 Department Meetings, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Mark Crumpler from 215 Morningside Drive spoke about what he feels is a parking enforcement issue on Main Street. Mr. Crumpler advised he has been a merchant on Main Street for thirty-eight (38) years and in his opinion and observation there is continued problems with parking be abused on Main Street by Merchants and their employees. Mr. Crumpler further advised the biggest problem he has ever had with the Town is over the parking enforcement.

Mr. Crumpler stated he has three store locations in Town, two on Main Street and one off of Main Street. Each year his sales go down, currently he is down 60% to what his

business use to be and he attributes it to the parking issue on Main Street. Mr. Crumpler stated he's had customers advised they don't want to go to his downtown locations because they have trouble finding a place to park. Mr. Crumpler advised he is in favor of more funding for parking enforcement and he would like to see Council get behind helping the Merchants and doing something about the parking issue.

Mayor Sellers thanked Mr. Crumpler and advised Council is aware of the problem as they have had others express the same concerns and they will be looking further at this issue.

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Evans presented the following consent agenda item

1. Budget Amendment

Budget Amendment Ordinance to account for various items. **Budget Amendment #2018-06 – Attachment A**

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

Old Business

1. Board Appointment - BRAAC

Manager Evans advised one of the individuals whom was appointed to BRAAC at the March 13, 2018 meeting has since decided to decline his reappointment leaving an open vacancy on the board. The vacancy has been advertised on the website for over a month and two applications were received.

Council Members voted for the vacant BRAAC board by ballot. The following appointment was unanimously made: Carol Knapp

2. Blowing Rock Appointment to Watauga County Parks and Recreation Board

Council Member Matheson made a motion to appoint Council Member Powell to the Watauga County Parks and Recreation Board, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

New Business

1. General Obligation Public Improvement Bond – Resolution

Manager Evans reviewed, in 2014 with an overwhelming response, voters approved a 13-Million-dollar Bond Referendum; 9 Million for transportation, 2 Million for water, 1 Million for sewer and 1 Million for Parks and Recreation. The first issuance has already been completed and now are ready for the second issuance. The second issuance is a 2.3 Million-dollar request and will be divided up as follows; 1.6 Million for transportation and sidewalk projects, \$140,000 for Parks and Recreation and \$560,000 for water projects.

Manager Evans advised he and Finance Officer Nicole Norman had participated in a recent sales presentation and felt it went very well. It was confirmed the Town had received another AA+ rating, which is the highest rating. Manager Evans further advised Blowing Rock is the only small town in the state to achieve this rating and that it is almost unheard of a Town this small to achieve this. The Bond sale will take place on May 1st.

Council Member Sweeting asked if a percentage rate had been given yet. Manager Evans advised that will be determined at the Bond sale and the Bond Council as well as the lender feel like it will be pretty close to the previous rate.

Manager Evans advised the Resolution has been reviewed by the Bond Council, Paul Jacobson as well as Town Attorney Allen Moseley and both felt everything is in order. With the signing of this resolution staff will be set to move forth with the second issuance of the Bond.

Council Member Steele made a motion to approve the next issuance of the GO Bond, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

2. BRAAC Recommendation – BRAHM Sculpture

Parks and Recreation director Jennifer Brown advised the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum has selected an artist to exhibit their outdoor sculpture through the 32nd Outdoor Rosen Sculpture Exhibition. The sculpture will be installed between May 23rd and May 25th. BRAHM will carry insurance and it will be bolted down to a concrete pad. The sculpture is approximately ten feet tall.

BRAAC approved the sculpture during their April meeting that was held on March 29th.

Council Member Sweeting asked how long the sculpture will be up. BRAHM Director Lee Carol Giduz advised this piece of art would be displayed for a year. Council Member Sweeting commented the statue was beautiful.

Manager Evans advised he felt it was worth mentioning that when Appalachian contacted Ms. Giduz about offering this sculpture for display they didn't allow Ms. Giduz to pick one of her choice, but instead she had to approve the one they selected and now go through the proper steps to be able to display at the museum.

Council Member Powell asked where the statue would be placed. Ms. Giduz advised it will be on the sculpture pad in between the building and advised due to the location the height of this sculpture is perfect.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve the Art Sculpture, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

Manager's Report

- Good news from S&P. They have affirmed the Town’s rating at the AA+ level. Our bond sale will take place on May 1.
- Trusses for the roof of the Parks & Rec building were delivered today and are being installed.
- Construction of the new wall behind town hall begins on Wednesday.
- The old recycling building is almost complete and will have new siding installed soon. It has a new roof, repaired wall, new insulation, new ceiling, and will soon have a new heat unit.
- Memorial Park is shaping up nicely with new trees planted and a new water line partially run from the public restroom facility to the front of the park. We will begin the footers for the wall soon.
- Permits have been issued to put new siding, new windows and doors, and a new roof on the old Moody building. Construction began today. It should be looking much better soon.
- The NCLM will have a different type of event this year instead of their typical Town Hall Day. This year they will have Town Hall Day/Dinner May 29, 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. The tentative plan is to do this instead of the traditional Town Hall Day on alternate years.
- The May Council meeting will move to May 15th at 6:00 p.m. due to elections being held on May 8th in the Council Chambers.
- Early voting for Watauga County residents will be available at Blowing Rock Town Hall April 30th – May 4th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- Caldwell County residents will be able to vote early at the Board of Elections office in Lenoir beginning April 19th.
- “Tell AppalCART Where to Go,” Thursday, April 19th. Town of Blowing Rock Clubhouse, 108 Lakeside Drive, Blowing Rock, NC 28605. If you can’t make this one, you can go to BREMCO in Boone on April 17, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss Council Member Sweeting made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Amendment – Attachment A

General Obligation Public Improvement Bond Resolution – Attachment B