

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
June 5, 2018

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council held a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 5, 2018, at 6:00 p.m. to present the Proposed Budget to the public. 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 and Finance Director Nicole Norman. Town Clerk, Hilari Hubner, recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019

Mayor Sellers asked for a motion to go into Public Hearing. Council Member Sweeting made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

Town Manager Evans presented via PowerPoint an overview of the budget process, priorities of the budget, revenue streams, expenses and some of the highlights of the budget including a \$0.01 tax increase for bond debt, a COLA of 2.1% for wages/salaries, increase in water/sewer minimum rate, \$100K to begin water plant repairs, funding for a police officer in the position of School Resource Officer, an additional day of parking enforcement, funding for a centrifuge at the sewer plant and funding for rebuilding bridge at Glenn Burney Trail. Town Manager Evans explained meetings were held with department heads and Council to discuss upcoming needs for the FY 2018-2019 Budget and the proposed budget was originally presented to Council at the May meeting. Town Manager Evans advised two (2) separate work sessions were held on May 18 and May 30 to discuss details associated with the budget.

Mayor Sellers asked for Public Comment.

Ms. Betsy Wilcox asked what enhancement would be done to Park Avenue. Manager Evans advised the funding in the budget is to allocate money to tentatively re-do the sidewalk, put in curb and gutter and upgrade storm drains, and it's the intent to do this along Park Avenue from Main Street to Wallingford. Manager Evans explained the current side walk is sloped, in need of repair and needs to be brought up to code for safety as well as deter people from walking in the middle of Park Avenue.

Ms. Wilcox asked what is included in the Sunset improvement. Manager Evans advised Council had charged him to come up with multiple options on how the Town could accomplish what needs to be done on that project. He further advised the suggestion is to provide Council with a "A, B, C" option. Manager Evans explained that without doing a lot of aesthetic changes, at the very minimum what must be done is new water/sewer lines, curb and guttering, sidewalks and re-surfacing the road. Ms. Wilcox asked what was in the budget for this project. Manager Evans advised it is 1.5 million and that is all bond related funding. Ms. Wilcox clarified Park Avenue is Budget related funding and Sunset Drive is Bond related funding. Manager Evans advised that is correct; Bond related funding is from three (3) parts of the Bond: Streets, Water and Sewer. Manager Evans mentioned TDA has also been contributing funding to Sunset. Ms. Wilcox asked what improvements have been done year to date with TDA funding. Manager Evans advised no improvements, but design and engineering have been done. Council Member Steele commented pot holes were patched as well.

Manager Evans explained the five basic items (water/sewer lines, curb and guttering, sidewalks and road repair) are a must. After that is completed, if funding is available and Council wishes to, design elements can then be brought in. He further explained this way the Town isn't locked into a specific plan and can have flexibility.

Finance Director Nicole Norman clarified the total cost for Sunset is 1.197 million and added that the revenue source for Park Avenue is Sales Tax money. Ms. Wilcox advised she felt that was a good use of Sales Tax funds.

Ms. Wilcox stated her last concern was with the median on Hwy 321 coming into Town from the Foley Center. She explained when the project was first done it looked good, but now it is a huge eye sore and wanted to know who was responsible for maintaining. Manager Evans advised NCDOT originally did the landscaping and they were responsible for a year and the year is just now up. He explained Town staff will be taking over and are aware this needs attention and will be taking care of bringing it back up to standard. Ms. Wilcox further asked if BRAAC or Garden Club could help. Manager Evans advised Town staff will be working hard on this and that maybe that could be a direction to move toward. Ms. Wilcox advised she just felt that would be a good project for volunteers to help with.

Council briefly discussed the reserve Capital Fund for Sewer and the purpose is to start saving for future repair.

Council Member Powell advised a lot of hours were spent working on this budget and, a lot of questions were asked by Council. She felt Council worked very well together and Manager Evans and Ms. Norman always has the answers to their questions and she was appreciative for their hard work and to be a part of this budget process.

Mayor Sellers thanked staff for their hard work on the whole budget process.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved. No action was taken.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

MAYOR _____

Charlie Sellers

ATTEST _____

Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

FY 2018-2019 Budget PowerPoint - Attachment A