

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
September 11, 2018

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 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, Finance Director Nicole Norman, Public Works Director Mike Wilcox, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Fire Chief Kent Graham, Police Captain Aaron Miller, Police Chief Tony Jones, Building Inspector John Warren 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 Steele made a motion to adopt the agenda. Council Member Powell stated she opposed but would wait for discussion to explain why. Council Member Matheson seconded Council Member Steele's motion. Council Member Powell made a new motion to remove an item under New Business; Consideration of Mural at Blowing Rock Inn, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Council Member Powell advised per the updated Public Art Policy BRAAC is to review first and then bring their recommendation to Council. She further advised she felt like Council was getting ahead by approving now.

BRAAC Chairperson Melissa Pickett advised from the audience that the item had gone to BRAAC and had been approved. Mayor Sellers concurred and stated an email was sent from BRAAC supporting the project. Council Member Powell stated she never received an email. Council Members Sweeting and Matheson concurred they hadn't received an email either. Mayor Sellers advised the email had been sent within the last few days and both he and Manager Evans had received it. Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown explained that BRAAC had approved the mural and an email was sent out to Mayor Sellers and Manager Evans, but Council may have not been copied in on the email.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked Ms. Brown if the mural was approved during a regular meeting or was it rushed. Ms. Brown explained BRAAC had known about this project for a while and had discussed it at several meetings prior to approval, but members of BRAAC did vote to approve via email.

Mayor Sellers apologized, he thought everyone was informed that BRAAC had approved the mural. After further discussion, Mayor Sellers stated since all were not informed

perhaps it was best to accept Council Member Powell's motion to postpone until the next Council meeting unless Council felt different.

David Rogers stated from the audience that what he had read from the packet online he thought it was indicated that BRAAC had approved the mural.

Council Member Steele advised there was no mention in the packet that any committee had approved anything.

Council Member Sweeting asked Council Member Powell if she would like to go ahead with her motion. Council Member Powell stated yes, that was her motion and explained the way she read the policy is someone from BRAAC would present and make a recommendation to Council. She asked if someone from BRAAC was there and prepared to present the item. Ms. Brown advised she could present the item if Council would like her to.

Council discussed further. Planning Director Kevin Rothrock advised he was the one who put the item together and was not trying to rush anything or get ahead of protocol, it was a timing issue. Mr. Rothrock explained if the consideration of the mural were to wait until the October Council meeting the project probably wouldn't be able to be done this year.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount stated he felt rushed. Council Member Sweeting advised she felt like Council needs to follow protocol and that she didn't know anything about BRAAC approving the item.

The motion stood: Council Member Powell made a new motion to remove an item under New Business; Consideration of Mural at Blowing Rock Inn, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Council Member Powell, Sweeting, Yount and Steele for the motion. Council Member Matheson opposed the motion. Motion passed and the consideration of the mural at Blowing Rock Inn was removed from the agenda.

Ray Pickett stated from the audience he would not bring this item back before Council, that "according to the policy it says private property and it does not have to come before Council, BRAAC has approved it and it can be done."

Council Member Sweeting advised she felt Mr. Pickett was out of order.

Mayor Sellers advised he felt this can be discussed and asked Mr. Pickett to get with Mr. Rothrock and Manager Evans. Mayor Sellers further advised according to the policy that was put in place he personally questions if this item has to go to Council. Council Member Powell and Council Member Matheson both agreed they didn't think it did. Council Member Matheson asked if Town Attorney Allen Moseley could please review the policy and provide his thoughts on the matter.

Mayor Sellers stated the item had been removed and will be left up to Manager Evans and Attorney Moseley as to if protocol is being followed the way the ordinance is written.

With no further changes, Council Member Steele made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Manager Evans advised Blowing Rock has a wonderful opportunity to participate in a program that is generally reserved for County governments. Ron Lewis from Foundation Forward, Inc. contacted him a few months ago and wanted to get this opportunity before Council for consideration. Manager Evans advised he met with Ron Lewis and David Streater of Foundation Forward, Inc. and discussed the background and goal of Foundation Forward, Inc. as they pursue their dream.

Ron Lewis showed a video presentation and presented via power point information about the Morganton-based Foundation Forward, Inc., a 501(c)(3) organization focused on bringing the three documents at the foundation of America's form of government to counties in all 50 states.

Mr. Lewis thanked Mayor Sellers and Council for the opportunity to present this to the Town and stated he was not trying to sell anything to the Town. Mr. Lewis further stated the money is available and the only thing charged to the Town is to select the location in which to put the Charters of Freedom.

Mr. Lewis advised all the money for building the Charters of Freedom is private money and no public money is spent on this project. He advised this is all about educating our school age children and future leaders about the price paid for the founding of this great country. He further advised many children don't get the opportunity to go to the National Archives Building in Washington and their mission is to build as many Charters of Freedom across the country in the next ten years as they can.

Mr. Lewis thanked Mayor Sellers and Council again for the opportunity to present this to the Town and restated he was not trying to sell anything to the Town, his organization is simply wishing to gift the Charters of Freedom to the Town of Blowing Rock.

Mayor Sellers advised Council would reserve their questions for New Business.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Powell made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting held on August 14, 2018, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the minutes for the closed session held on August 14, 2018, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Bill Carter 401 Tarry Acres Circle spoke on behalf of the Blowing Rock Civic Association. Mr. Carter asked Council to give serious thought and consideration to consulting a professional land planning firm or the School of Government for experienced and seasoned advice on how best the newly constructed Valley Boulevard should be developed. He explained the Town only has one shot to manage how this important corridor be developed. Mr. Carter advised the Civic Association as well as Council want that to be done in an attractive and desirable fashion that will match our Village - Affording the Town development that will enhance the beauty of Blowing Rock. Mr. Carter thanked Council for their time.

Mayor Sellers thanked Mr. Carter for his comments.

Council Member Sweeting advised the Planning Board and subcommittees are looking at this and agreed having a land planning firm or consulting with the School of Government isn't a bad idea.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Amendment Ordinance

Budget Amendment Ordinance to account for various items. **Budget Amendment Ordinance - #2018-11 - Attachment A**

2. Resolution to honor Blowing Rock's Fallen Firefighters

Resolution to honor fallen firefighters. **Resolution to honor Blowing Rock's Fallen Firefighters – Attachment B**

Mayor Pro-tem Yount made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Steele. Unanimously approved.

Public Hearing

1. Consideration of Sign Ordinance

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock explained earlier this year, staff hired Benchmark Planning Consultants to rewrite our sign ordinance and make it compliant with the Reed vs. Town of Gilbert Supreme Court decision from 2015. Vagn Hansen with Benchmark had completed a revision of the City of Concord sign ordinance after the Reed case was decided. He then re-wrote the ordinance and it was adopted as one of the first in NC to be consistent with the Reed decision.

Vagn prepared multiple drafts of the Blowing Rock Sign Ordinance which were reviewed by the zoning subcommittee of the Planning Board. After several reviews and modifications, the draft ordinance was presented to the full Planning Board for review and recommendation at the August 23, 2018 meeting. With a few minor modifications to the draft ordinance, the Planning Board recommended approval to forward to a public hearing for Town Council consideration.

Most of the sign ordinance structure remains in place with some rearrangement for clarity. Some of the major changes to the draft ordinance include:

- Regulations of signs without respect to content (message).
- Allowing one (1) temporary sign for each property per street frontage, limited to 4 square feet in all districts, except General Business which allows 16 square feet. [Section 16-17.10.6 (e)].
- Temporary signs are not regulated by content but rather whether they are designed and installed in a manner that makes them easily removeable.
- Allowing up to five (5) temporary signs per street frontage during election periods by suspending the regulations [16-17.10.6 (d)]
- Off-premise signs are allowed since the ordinance must remain content neutral; however, the property must have a permanent structure or building to have a permanent sign erected.
- Language for nonconforming signs is moved to Chapter 16, Article 8 – Nonconforming Situations.
- General incidental signs smaller than one (1) square foot are permitted in all districts as long as they are not purposefully intended to circumvent the ordinance. (Section 16-17.10.17)

Mayor Sellers asked Mr. Rothrock to explain what the supreme court ruling meant by “content natural”. Mr. Rothrock advised simply it means you can’t regulate a sign by what it says.

Council Member Matheson asked regarding the five (5) signs per street front, if that would be considering Hwy 321 Business from the Hamptons to Chetola only five (5) signs total. Mr. Rothrock clarified that meant five (5) signs per street front per property. Council Member Matheson further asked if this also brought the Town in compliance with the city limits and ETJ. Mr. Rothrock advised that it did and that the temporary signs apply Town wide.

Council Member Powell asked if each property could have sandwich boards. Vagn Hansen from Benchmark explained the definition of temporary signs vs. a sandwich board sign. He further explained the Town isn’t required to allow any signage, but that probably wasn’t a good option.

Council Member Powell explained the reason she was asking was because some businesses don’t have a yard in front of their business and she felt that’s a question a lot of business owners would have and just wanted that clarified. Mr. Rothrock advised they can put the sign on their property or put the sign in their window. The Town only regulates what goes on public property.

Council Member Steele asked in this re-doing of the sign ordinance if anything was changed about the time limits for signs. Mr. Rothrock advised some clarification was made.

Council Member Sweeting advised a lot of signs go up on the weekend and felt the Police should be aware of the ordinance and help enforce it. After further discussion, Mr. Rothrock advised it's essentially the same ordinance with the seven (7) highlighted changes which were made with the help of Vagn Hansen from Benchmark, and the Planning Board subcommittee.

Planning Board Chairman David Harwood advised the subcommittee discussed the time limit a lot and determined it was very difficult to effectively regulate the time limit. He further explained the content neutrality piece has a domino effect on a lot of pieces of the ordinance. He advised Council is seeing what it took the subcommittee weeks to discover.

Council Member Powell asked if the Town was in compliance with our current signs and if adding this ordinance would change anything the Town currently has. Mr. Rothrock advised the permanent signs are not really going to change. He advised the temporary signs give a lot more flexibility to some and some it will restrict.

Mayor Sellers advised essentially Mr. Rothrock is looking for Council's approval to these changes in the Town's ordinance, and Council can always go back and put restrictions on the changes as long as it follows the supreme court ruling.

Council Member Steele asked if any other Towns were adopting these changes. Mr. Rothrock advised Beech Mountain had adopted it.

Mayor Sellers asked for public comment. Karen Herterich advised when she first started South Marke, she helped the Town write the sign ordinance because it was so new. She advised it might be best for Council Members to review further with Mr. Rothrock and gain some clarification and she admitted she was confused by the whole ordinance. Ms. Herterich further advised she felt this was a "big can of worms that needed to be sorted through". She further advised she wanted what's best for the Town.

After further discussion, Council Member Sweeting made a motion to close the Public Hearing, seconded by Council Member Steele. Unanimously approved.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the sign ordinance as presented and thanked everyone who worked so hard on it, seconded by Council Member Matheson.

Old Business

1. Town Manager Evaluation

Council Member Sweeting advised everyone has now received the Manager Evaluation with the added scoring code. Council Member Sweeting asked if anyone had questions about the scoring. Mayor Sellers stated the Evaluation form was approved at the last

Council Meeting. Council Member Sweeting advised the evaluation was approved, but not the scoring code.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount advised he hasn't seen anything about the scoring. Council Member Steele explained that it had been added to the document and that is what needed to be approved.

Council briefly discussed.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked if he was required to sign the form. Council Member Sweeting advised the best option might be to combine all the reports and compile a summary to present to the Manager at the conclusion of the evaluation.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the Manager Evaluation as is, seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

New Business

1. Charters of Freedom Discussion and Decision

Mayor Sellers advised Mr. Lewis would entertain questions about the Charters of Freedom.

Council Member Steele asked what the average time was from start to finish to build. Mr. Lewis explained approximately a month, depending on weather and other issues, especially as winter approaches. Mr. Lewis explained they don't benefit from waiting and once they have approval from the board to get started, they try to move forward. He briefly explained the process.

Council Member Powell advised she had pulled a protocol question at the beginning with the Mural discussion and needed to stay consistent. She stated she wasn't sure how Mr. Lewis got on the agenda for Council to make a decision to move forward without going to BRAAC first. Council Member Powell further stated she felt like there are procedures to follow and everyone should be required to follow it.

Mr. Lewis advised if that is what Council would like they would be happy to go to BRAAC for approval first.

Council Member Powell explained that is what the Town's procedures are. She further explained she appreciated the presentation, it was great, and she appreciates the Charters of Freedom and our bill of rights. She just wasn't sure why Council was having this discussion now and felt there were steps that needed to be followed first.

Council Member Steele agreed and suggested it might be a good idea to poll and get an idea of the interest people would have. Council Member Matheson advised that would be something BRAAC would consider when they review.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to send the Charters of Freedom to BRAAC for review and for them to bring a recommendation back to Council, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

2. Sourwood Lane Waterline Project Bid Award

Town Engineer Doug Chapman advised the Blowing Rock Sourwood Lane waterline and road project is part of the Water Bond Project. The project includes a total of approximately 3,900 linear feet of 6-inch and 2-inch water lines along Sourwood, Oak Street, and Goforth Road, and will include new service taps and fire hydrants. All the streets will be patched from the water line installation and then repaved.

Widening of feasible sections of Sourwood (approximately 1,680 feet long overall) will be included as an alternate bid with the project. This portion of the work will include widening of the road bed (2 to 4-feet) where feasible on the cut side, drainage improvements (particularly piping ditches to allow widening) and installing asphalt curbing with backfill along the edge at the slope. Should the Council accept this alternate work, the road will be much more passible, but would not meet the standard 18-foot width.

Mr. Chapman stated three (3) bids were received for the project and the low bid was from Iron Mountain Construction at a base bid of \$575,086. Mr. Chapman further stated an alternate bid was also taken as part of the project for drainage improvements, addition of some culverts and widening the road where possible. Mr. Chapman advised \$190,935 was the low bid for that alternate.

Mr. Chapman recommended Council approve the base bid with the alternate and set up a 5% contingency with the project.

Council Member Sweeting asked what the plan is for Green Hill Woods. Mr. Chapman advised the waterline will be replaced on that section, a sewer manhole to be replaced as well as the road will be resurfaced.

Council Member Powell asked if anyone had contacted BREMCO regarding the right-of-way. Manager Evans advised he had and that their plan is to do the power line in the next twenty (20) years.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve Iron Mountain Construction's bid to do the Sourwood Lane project, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Yount. Unanimously approved.

3. Park Avenue and American Legion Parking Lot – Limit of three-hour parking

Council Member Sweeting advised she brought this topic up to be discussed because there are currently no parking restrictions on Park Avenue except in front of the Chamber and the Library. She further advised this area was brought up for discussion about two (2) or two and a half (2 ½) years ago and was asked by Council to be

monitored to help retailers and restaurants that needed to get customers to their businesses. Council Member Sweeting explained what is happening is employees from the stores and restaurants have been parking down Park Avenue instead of using the American Legion Parking Deck. She explained there are twenty-one (21) parking spots on Park Avenue, not including the spots in front of the Chamber and Library and another thirty (30) spaces in front of the American Legion that would help increase how many parking spots the Town has. She explained she just wanted to bring this back up for discussion to help the merchants and restaurants to have more parking and limit it instead of people parking there all day.

Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown advised one thing to consider is the American Legion is rented out by the Town, not only on weekends, but during the week too. She explained some rent it for the whole day and some rent it for half a day. She explained making the spaces in front of the American Legion three (3) hour would conflict with those renting the building for an event. She further explained those spaces are the only one's she informs people they can block off when renting the building for their event. Ms. Brown advised that's something to take into consideration.

Council Member Powell stated she thinks one of the reasons the Town is having such success renting the American Legion is because the building is level with the parking lot and being able to walk right into the building. She advised she felt Park Avenue and Wallingford should be discussed but leave the American Legion Parking area alone.

Council Member Sweeting restated she wanted to include the American Legion area.

Council Member Matheson advised he felt including the American Legion would cause a "headache" for the parking enforcement when trying to figure out who has parked because they have rented the building and who hasn't. He stated Council briefly touched on the parking at the last retreat and he would like it to be put back on the retreat agenda for January to discuss further. Council Member Matheson advised he had no issue with limiting the parking time to three (3) hours on Park Avenue.

Council Member Steele agreed this goes beyond a few streets and Council needs to look at the Town's parking as a whole.

David Rogers asked from the audience if there wasn't a proposal to re-do Park Ave. Mayor Sellers advised there is and that was a good point, perhaps this is premature to decide. Council Member Sweeting advised no, and that was something Council was told three (3) years ago from a previous Town Manager. Mayor Sellers stated it was approved and work will begin in October. Manager Evans advised the project was approved in the budget and he is currently working on getting quotes. Council Member Sweeting asked if the work will be done on the left side of Park Avenue then can't the three (3) hour parking be for the right side. Manager Evans advised there aren't many spaces on that side of the street. Council Member Sweeting stated there are twenty-one (21) spaces from Main Street to the Old Fire House, excluding the Chamber and the Library.

Mayor Sellers asked what about the residents that live in that area that may utilize one of those parking spaces. Council Member Sweeting advised they have their own driveways and can use the area like everyone else.

After further discussion, Council Member Sweeting made a motion to add signs for three (3) hour parking on the North side of Park Avenue and the West side of Wallingford (along the fence), seconded by Council Member Matheson. Unanimously approved.

At 8:00 p.m. Council took a 10 minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 8:10 p.m.

4. US Hwy 321 (Valley Boulevard) NCDOT – Landscaping Agreement

Manager Evans advised as part of the US 321 Memorandum of Understanding between the NCDOT and the Town of Blowing, a landscape plan is being designed by NCDOT for installation along the Hwy 321 widening corridor. The landscape plan has been developed over the past several years working with Town staff, BRAAC, and other public stakeholders. Implementation of the plan and installation of the plant material will begin in the fall of 2018, with Town maintenance responsibility beginning one year after final planting and acceptance by NCDOT.

Manager Evans further advised in a number of conversations that have been exchanged between the Town and NCDOT, the Town has asked for NCDOT to consider the Town in a better way than they did with the landscaping at the Parkway bridge, which was planted twice and died both times. Manager Evans acknowledged the Town didn't get the best deal and staff wanted to keep that from happening again. NCDOT has constructed a Memorandum of understanding in which he has reviewed along with BRAAC, Jennifer Brown and Chris Pate from Parks and Recreation and all have had input and expressed concerns and were able to negotiate a longer time frame (18 months instead of 12 months) to make sure plants are established and growing before NCDOT turns the project over to the municipality.

Council Member Sweeting asked if BRACC, Town Staff and the Public Stake holders looked at the plan. Manager Evans advised they had and this was the landscape plan presented last September. Council Member Sweeting clarified she was asking because she had sent Jeff Lackey with NCDOT some information after the meeting last year regarding some areas he was going to look at that residents had complained about hearing noise. Manager Evans advised he did receive that information and was going to try and make an effort to try to help with that issue.

Council Member Steele advised he thought NCDOT had indicated they would allocate \$10,000 per year to put toward maintaining the landscape. Council briefly discussed, no other Council Members recalled that information.

Council Member Powell made a motion to approve the landscape agreement, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved. **US Hwy 321 (Valley Boulevard) NCDOT – Landscaping Agreement – Attachment C**

5. BRAAC Request Regarding Old Fire Station

The Blowing Rock Village Foundation has been working with the Town Council to possibly turn the old fire station into a Cultural Arts facility. The most recent meeting took place at the July 10, 2018 Town Council meeting in which the future of the project was not given a clear direction either way as to continuing or not. BRAAC would like Council to consider directing Blowing Rock Village Foundation to eliminate the old fire house from consideration in their plans for a Cultural Arts Facility. This way the Blowing Rock Village Foundation can start exploring other options and Parks and Recreation can continue with their use of the building.

Melissa Pickett, Chairperson for BRAAC read a letter she submitted for Council's consideration to clearly define a direction for the Village Foundations request for use of the old firehouse.

Council Member Powell expressed her appreciation for Ms. Pickett's letter, but she thought Council made it very clear to the Village Foundation when they told them to explore other locations.

Ms. Pickett advised that the BRACC Board doesn't feel that the old firehouse was taken off as an option for them.

Council Member Powell explained in her opinion by Council stated explore other options that means "don't do it here". Ms. Pickett further explained she doesn't feel that was made clear to the Village Foundation. Council Member Powell restated that is what she meant and asked the other Council Members what they meant.

Council Member Sweeting advised she concurred that is what Council said to the Village Foundation along with there are other options in Town and they needed to look at them. She further advised as far as the meeting with Town Council, that was the Village Foundation's recommendation and Council never answered their request. Council Member Sweeting commented she didn't feel like Council needed to address Ms. Pickett's letter either.

Council Member Sweeting stated she didn't think Council needed to "spell it out" for the Village Foundation, she felt that each Council Member gave their opinion and she told Ms. Pickett that she needed to respect that. She advised its Council's job to talk to them the way Council did and that if Parks and Recreation doesn't want to use the funds Council has allocated to spend for improvements to the building, that needs to be between the Manager and the Department Head.

Ms. Pickett advised the general concern is the general public doesn't understand that Council didn't tell the Village Foundation the old fire house isn't an option.

Council Member Sweeting stated she didn't know how Ms. Pickett could say that. She further stated she didn't feel as though Council needed to back track and embarrass the Village Foundation, they have done a lot for the Town. Council Member Sweeting advised she thought Ms. Pickett was putting Council in an awful spot and that she didn't appreciate it. She further advised Ms. Pickett was not being respectful to the Council.

Ms. Pickett stated that was not the intention of this at all. Council Member Sweeting stated she thought perhaps Ms. Pickett should have re-thought her letter.

Mayor Sellers thanked Ms. Pickett and Council Member Sweeting for their thoughts. He advised that in reading though the minutes from the July Council Meeting, Council did leave a partial open door for the Village Foundation to pursue and he thought Ms. Pickett was just requesting a definitive answer.

Ms. Pickett thanked Council for their time and abruptly left, stating as she walked out the door Council could have her resignation as the Chair of BRACC.

Council Member Powell stated she felt Council needed to discuss whether they need to clarify what was meant at the July Council Meeting regarding the old fire house. She added her intention when she started this conversation, and she was sorry it went sour, was when Council informed the Village Foundation to "explore other options" it meant not the old fire station. She felt Ms. Pickett brought up a valid point and if it's not clear then Council needs to make it clear. She also advised she appreciated Ms. Pickett bringing this to Council's attention.

Council discussed the July Council Meeting and what they had told the Village Foundation about moving forward. Manager Evans read the last statement made at the end of that meeting in July:

"Council left the option open for the Task Force to pursue and come back with more information at a later date."

Council Member Sweeting stated she would never stifle the citizens from creativity, they showed that with what they did with the Laurel Lane project, but that doesn't mean Council will accept it. Council Member Sweeting further advised she felt Council had made their decision and staff needs to continue with the improvements planned and advised staff need to go ahead and order the garage door.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount advised he was convinced that the Village Foundation's feelings wouldn't be hurt if Council says the old fire station is not available to anyone but the Town of Blowing Rock.

Council Member Powell advised she was good with that statement and that she had thought that was said in the nicest way possible before but felt what Council meant needs to be cleared up for the public.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount made a motion to instruct the manager to inform the Village Foundation that the old fire station is not available for any use other than what the Town is currently using it for, seconded by Council Member Powell.

Council Member Steele stated for the record Council is only trying to clarify some previous actions that were talked about and Council wants to make sure that it's clear to all parties concerned.

Council Member Powell expressed her appreciation to Ms. Pickett for bringing this to Council that it was not clear in the community and that Council needed to clear this up. She further stated she felt that Council needs to apologize to Ms. Pickett for the way this was handled.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked why. Council Member Powell advised because "we don't need this drama in our Town". **Letter from BRAAC – Attachment D**

Managers' Report

- Line painting continues with several roads receiving sideline strips including: Green Street, Spruce Road, Sunset Drive, Stonecliff Drive, Rickard Drive, Mockingbird Lane, Morning Glory Lane, Laurel Grove Lane, Grassy Knoll, Morningside Drive, Rainey Street, Birch Drive, Birch Drive Extension and Hill Street. Used 165 gallons of white paint.
- The Town continues ROW vegetation clearing. It has not made us popular in some cases but has made visibility better for drivers and children's safety around the school.
- Tasha Johnson has successfully completed her finance training at UNC School of Government in Chapel Hill.
- I have been able to negotiate purchases on three Toyota pickup trucks for the Town which will be purchased with our upcoming installment loan. I was able to buy locally and still meet or exceed the prices of the Sheriffs Association and saved the Town several thousand dollars over the regular prices and over what was budgeted.
- We have rented an electronic road sign that displays arrows or text or both to use for installing the remaining mast arm signs on Valley Boulevard. We hope to be complete in two weeks.
- We have changed the AppalCART route to include a stop at Tanger Outlets. The additional stop will begin on September 7.
- The Friends of Ginny Stevens Committee will have a dedication ceremony on September 16th at 4:30 PM at the corner of Main and Chestnut Street to rename Chestnut Street to Ginny Stevens Lane.
- Our State of the Town meeting went well, followed by dinner with Representative Virginia Fox and Senator Deanna Ballard. I am working with Representative Fox at the federal level to try to procure any funding available for underground electric on Sunset.

- Chamber representatives and I met with Golden Leaf Foundation president, Dan Gerlach to try to procure any funds available for underground electric for Sunset.
- Charlie Sellers and I met with Blue Ridge Energy to discuss underground electric for Sunset. They are going to help us look for funds, but don't know of any readily available. They will also look to see what possibilities they can come up with to improve the utility poles and wiring at Main and Sunset to make it more aesthetically pleasing and safer for pedestrians and drivers.
- Jim Steele, Doug Matheson, and I met with our appointed Legislative Action Committees in Raleigh on August 23 to discuss potential Advocacy Goals for the upcoming year. These are goals desired by municipalities and scrutinized by the committees and NCLM Board, then eventually League members at the Advocacy Goals Conference later this year.
- Jim Steele, Doug Matheson, and I (if able) will be attending the NCLM Annual Conference in Hickory on September 19 – 21.
- Doug Matheson participated in the UNC School of Government's assessment held at the High Country Council of Governments on August 29.
- I applied for a program offered by the NC Division of Water Infrastructure (NC DWI). Limited to ten towns in NC, we were selected to participate. The program will provide hands-on training & technical assistance for AWWA best practices in cost-effective and reliable water loss management. In 2017, the State Water Infrastructure Authority established North Carolina's Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Master Plan. The vision of the master plan is to establish long-term viable utilities that operate as enterprise systems, and this Water Loss Program will help foster that vision.
- The water cut-off valve installation at the water plant is now complete, providing a cut-off point at the water plant for both convenience and safety.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council briefly discussed the Public Art policy. Mayor Sellers advised this meeting wasn't the time to discuss as it was not on the agenda. Council asked that the Art Policy be put on the October agenda to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:00 p.m. Council Member Steele made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (5) – Discussion of potential property acquisition and NCGS 143-318.11. (a) (3) – Attorney-Client Privilege - Occupancy Tax Delinquency, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved. Council discussed the issues at hand. Council Member Sweeting made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved. Action taken: Council directed Manager Evans to do some further research for the topic discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked Attorney Moseley his advice on how Council should handle and if they should take value in Ms. Pickett stating she would be resigning as the Chairperson of BRAAC. Attorney Moseley advised his opinion was someone owes Ms.

Pickett an apology. He stated that Ms. Pickett has given a lot of her time to the Town, she got upset with what Council Member Sweeting said to her and felt he it doesn't matter who is wrong or right, but perhaps Council Member Sweeting should apologize to her and hopefully salvage that relationship. Council Members Powell and Matheson agreed. Mayor Sellers thanks Attorney Moseley for his input.

There being no further business to discuss Council Member Matheson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m., seconded by Council Member Powell. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Budget Amendment Ordinance - #2018-11 - Attachment A

Resolution to honor Blowing Rock's Fallen Firefighters – Attachment B

US Hwy 321 (Valley Boulevard) NCDOT – Landscaping Agreement – Attachment C

Letter from BRAAC – Attachme