

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
February 08, 2016 5:30 PM**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on February 08, 2016. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Dave Lindsey, Bill Summerlin, Phillip Hise and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Libby Phillips, Beth Byerly, Russell Lankford, Wes Foy, Jimmy Phillips, Rita Phillips and David Purtell (Mitchell News-Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Darla Harding called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. James Acuff gave the invocation. Rocky Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the agenda with the changes of moving the police department to first on the agenda and eliminating the appointment for Amber Briggs. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 11, 2016. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Wes Foy approached the Council about the Spruce Pine Library. He noted that the window at the south end is cracked. A door is off the stall in the men's room. Richard advised that Mitchell Glass is supposed to fix the glass. Wes commended Phillip's crew on snow removal, and the staff in general.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA

Richard explained the Toe River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan, noting that it is required by FEMA and a renewal of the 2011 plan. Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the Toe River Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan as presented. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin distributed a monthly calls report, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- The police department state audit went well.
- Both new police vehicles should be ready this Friday at Light N Up.
- The vacant police position has been filled by Jeremy Altimus, who will begin employment on February 22.
- Rocky Buchanan passed along a question about the open carry of a handgun at Riverside Park. Per the chief, that is permissible.

Main Street

- Libby Phillips distributed a Spruce Pine Main Street Executive Director's Report for February, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- She received her first park concert sponsorship today.
- She advised that a committee was appointed during the Main Street board meeting to address the historic theater downtown.

Water and Sewer

- Russell Lankford distributed a water and sewer report for January. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on the parks for January.

- His crew painted town-owned benches downtown.
- He noted that during the snow storm, a lot of effort went into the downtown clearing of sidewalks, and clearing the walks at Riverside Park. Mayor Harding thanked both the park and public works crews for their efforts during the snowstorm.

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders.
- Drifts were problematic during the last snow storm. Harding Landscaping helped with some of the smaller streets when our equipment broke down.
- He invited the Council to come to the public works building and see the renovated breakroom, office and restroom.
- Dave Lindsey noted that meter reading fell in the middle of the snow. It was further complicated by a new interrogation system. He expressed his appreciation to the Public Works crew and to Ella for all their hard work.
- Mayor Harding commended Phillip on increased morale in his department.
- Phillip noted that the water line at the creek on Carters Ridge needs replaced.

Finance

- Dave Lindsey distributed a Tax Advertising List Report and a calendar of events for budget preparation. Said report and calendar are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Rocky moved to post and advertise tax liens. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Submitted to the local newspaper will be the delinquent tax listing as of April 22nd.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Richard Canipe updated the Council on a Department of Commerce Downtown Redevelopment Grant with a 25% match. He noted that it has a 100-point application and is not tied to job creation. It requires a 4-year commitment and business plan ready to implement. He has asked Phil Trew of High Country Council of Governments if any of the interested applicants would qualify.
- ✓ The bulk caustic storage project for the water plant has been put out to bid. Wooten Company is negotiating with the contractor to meet the project budget. It includes a generator at the North Toe Intake.
- ✓ Richard is expecting a bar screen proposal from American Water, designed and installed by them. The state requires that the process of clearing the bar screens be revamped.
- ✓ He reminded the Council that the Essentials of Municipal Government class is the 17th and 18th of February.
- ✓ The new Police Department is completed except for keying doors. We will plan an open house when the winter weather breaks.
- ✓ James Acuff asked if the public works facility is in a flood plain. It has flooded before. Richard will check.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

Mayor Harding complimented the benches from public works that have been redone and are beautiful. She advised that the second regular meeting in February will focus on hearing from downtown merchants and businesses.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Rocky Buchanan at 6:33 PM.

Darlene Butler, Town Clerk

Darla Harding, Mayor

James Acuff, Council Member

Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

absent
Larry McKinney, Council Member