

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
March 14, 2016 5:30 PM

A meeting of the Town Council was held on March 14, 2016. Present were Council Members Larry McKinney and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Dave Lindsey, Bill Summerlin, Jeremy Altimus, Phillip Hise and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Amber Briggs, Russell Lankford, Monica Henley Kritz, Mrs. Henley, Steve Williams, Jimmy and Rita Phillips, James Smith, Jerry Smith, Roger Wilson, Beth Byerly, Jarrod Hughes, and David Purtell (Mitchell News-Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

Councilman Rocky Buchanan called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Rocky Buchanan gave the invocation. Larry McKinney led the Pledge of Allegiance. No quorum was present so no action was taken during the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Amber Briggs, director of the Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library, introduced herself. She noted that she has been on the job 8 months. She commended Cathy Silver and Ayla Archer of the Spruce Pine Library for doing a great job. She noted that the library looks great with the new lighting. She stated that use of the Spruce Pine Library is going strong. Her goals, as director, include increasing programming for seniors and children, increased cooperation with the educational system, and making books accessible for everyone. E-books are coming soon, which is a great tool for juveniles and seniors. NC libraries will receive increased funding from the state in this year's budget.

Monica Henley Kritz addressed the Council on behalf of the National Day of Prayer. She noted that the event is scheduled for the 1st Thursday in May at noon. She inquired about a possible location in town, noting that her first choice would be Central Park. Richard Canipe advised her that use of Central Park is scheduled by Spruce Pine Main Street and she should contact Libby Phillips. Ms. Kritz's second choice would be Riverside Park. There are no problems with using Riverside Park.

Jarrold Hughes, owner of J-Rods, approached the Council about changing the ordinance that prohibits pool tables in bars. He noted that he has another business, the Oxford Billiards Club, which combines the two successfully. Richard Canipe noted that any change would begin with the town attorney's recommendation. Mr. Hughes will meet with Richard to begin the process.

Roger Wilson addressed the Council about the car shows held downtown. He asked for a decision from the Council on whether they want the car shows downtown. Rocky Buchanan stated that he thinks City Drive-in would be a better place. Richard Canipe noted that business owners downtown just want the street to remain open. Some car show members want to keep it on Locust Street. The Town Council meets again on March 28th and will discuss the location again. Roger Wilson needs an answer before the car club meets on March 31.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA - none

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin said calls were down for his department for February.
- The police department open house is scheduled for Friday, March 18th, from 3-6 PM.
- The Chief introduced Jeremy Altimus, the town's new officer.
- Chief Summerlin noted that his officers have requested "In God We Trust" on patrol cars. He advised that the cost would be \$3 per car.

Main Street – Libby Phillips absent

- Libby will be attending the Main Street conference in Goldsboro, which begins Wednesday. David Nivens and Main Street will both be recognized at the meeting. Dave and Cindy Lindsey and Sandra Blankenbaker are attending as well.
- Main Street is gathering information on sidewalk replacement costs for budget time.
- Spring cleanup before the Blacksmith Festival will be held on April 16th.

Water and Sewer

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

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on the parks for February.
- He noted that moving snow took some time.
- The heavy rain required some work on park storm drains.
- Playground safety checks were good for February.
- A shelter at Brad Ragan Park required repairs after a limb went through the roof.
- His crew is working on tennis courts for the season.

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. His department totaled 122 completed, with 8 still open.
- Lots of water leaks lately have kept the crew very busy.
- Phillip invited the Council to visit the Public Works Building to see the renovations.
- Richard Canipe talked to the fire marshal and building inspector about requirements for a new salt storage building. The next step will be to have the property surveyed for placement of the building.

Finance

- Dave Lindsey distributed an Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy. The property tax collection rate is at 91.38%. He will send out letters to past due taxpayers this week.
- He distributed a Financial Summary Report, with a projected fiscal year ending for 2016.
- He discussed a Capital Project Ordinance and General Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment, which cannot be voted on without a quorum of Town Council.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Richard Canipe mentioned the Police Dept. open house scheduled for Friday.
- ✓ He will attend a grant funding workshop on Mar. 31 at High Country Council of Governments.
- ✓ He will attend a Mission Health quarterly update on health care Friday.
- ✓ Phase 1 and 2 assessments were received Friday on the old town hall. The report was good.
- ✓ Richard noted that work on the 226/19E intersection should begin any time now.

PUBLIC COMMENT

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Darlene Butler, Town Clerk

_____absent_____
Darla Harding, Mayor

_____absent_____
James Acuff, Council Member

Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

Larry McKinney, Council Member