

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council Planning Session
April 07, 2016 – 5:00 PM

A planning session of the Town Council was held on April 07, 2016 at Stuart's on the Green in Spruce Pine at 5:00 PM. Present were Mayor Darla Harding, and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Ella Edwards, Dave Lindsey, Phillip Hise, Bill Summerlin and Michael Wood. Libby Phillips, Russell Lankford, and David Purtell (Mitchell News-Journal) also attended.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harding called the planning session to order at 5:00 PM. Michael Wood gave the invocation before the evening meal.

DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS

Parks Supervisor Michael Wood thanked the Council for their support. He advised that his department needs a garden-type mowing tractor. For the swimming pool, new umbrellas for the lifeguard stand and tables are requested. Mayor Harding noted that the parks look great.

Russell Lankford of American Water updated the Council on water and sewer capital needs for next fiscal year. He expressed appreciation for the support of the Council and staff. He noted that the automatic fence gate at the water plant was hit by lightning a couple of years ago and he would like to replace it. The SCADA system is outdated and needs updated. He would like to work on a couple of lift stations. A new Carters Ridge pump is needed.

Libby Phillips of Spruce Pine Main Street updated the Council on plans for the next fiscal year. She thanked the Council and Richard Canipe for all their support. She asked that the Town consider helping to fund two projects, a sidewalk connector project and a new business start-up program. Richard stated that Libby is doing a great job as Main Street Director. Mayor Harding thanked Libby and noted that she is handling a lot of issues that would have had to be handled by the Town Council. Libby credited her amazing volunteers.

Richard Canipe noted that Public Works Director Phillip Hise has been here a year now, and that he has done a great job. Phillip thanked the Council for their support. He noted that the remodeling of the Public Works building boosted morale in his department. He stated that the new F350 has worked well this year. Floyd Isom plans to retire at the end of June. He requested a new salt storage building to replace the dangerous one. He noted that he needs a new service truck, a ¾ ton truck with tool storage on the bed and a rack. He is also requesting a concrete/asphalt saw to replace the dangerous handheld one.

Police Chief Bill Summerlin thanked the Town Council for the new police facility. He requested another patrol car. Richard requested that the budget include funding for a front desk person. A job description is needed.

Richard Canipe asked the Council what budget items they would like to see funded. Both Darla Harding and James Acuff prioritized sidewalks. Ella Edwards noted that the new meter reading equipment will be great once the bugs are worked out. Phillip Hise requested that more radio read meters be budgeted.

Dave Lindsey distributed FY 16/17 Revenue Projections. He also distributed worksheets on budget changes expected from FY 15/16 to FY 16/17, monies spent from the sale of the watershed, and a calendar of events for the budget process. Said worksheets are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Town Manager Richard Canipe expressed appreciation to the Council for their support. He noted that the pay plan is ten years old and that he would like to revisit the job classifications of the plan. He stated that the staff is working on proposals to update the antiquated town website. He noted that at some point, the restrooms at Brad Ragan Park will need renovation. Two more shelters at Riverside Park would be desirable in the future.

DISCUSSION

Council member Rocky Buchanan expressed that he appreciated the realistic requests from staff.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Council Member Rocky Buchanan.

Darlene J. Butler, Town Clerk

Darla Harding, Mayor

James Acuff, Council Member

Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

Larry McKinney, Council Member