

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
May 09, 2016 5:30 PM

A meeting of the Town Council was held on May 09, 2016. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Dave Lindsey, Phillip Hise and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Roger Burleson, Libby Phillips, Russell Lankford, Dr. John Boyd, Lloyd Hise, Jr., John Keen, Joe Bomar, Jeff Harding, Beth Byerly and David Purtell (Mitchell News-Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the agenda as presented. 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 April 25, 2016. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. John Boyd, Mayland Community College, updated the Council on the Pinebridge Coliseum Project Update. He distributed renderings of the proposed exteriors and a proposed floor plan. He noted that the seating capacity for the auditorium area would be 3000. Mayland is committed to blend community, education, and business in the project. Demolition begins this week. Beth Byerly asked if the facility could house theatrical productions and was answered that it could. James Acuff asked what support from the town was needed, and was answered that nothing at the moment was requested. Jeff Harding asked if there could be gym space, and the answer was a maybe.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA - none

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. His department totaled 61 completed, with 11 still open.
- He distributed quotes for a backhoe. Repairs for the 20-year old town backhoe are estimated at \$16-17,000. He is currently renting a backhoe for \$1800 per month. If ordered, it would take 6-8 weeks to receive a new JCB backhoe. Dave Lindsey noted that the backhoe could fit in next year's budget if the salt shed replacement was omitted. James Acuff moved to go ahead and purchase the backhoe. Rocky Buchanan stated that he wanted Councilman Larry McKinney to be in attendance before voting to spend that kind of money. Motion died for lack of second.

Police Department

- The police department had no representative in attendance.

Main Street

- Libby Phillips distributed a Main Street Report for the month of May. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Water and Sewer

- Russell Lankford distributed a water and sewer report for March/April. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- His facilities are averaging 60-80 work orders per month, mostly preventive maintenance.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on the parks for March and April.

- During the month of March, his crew painted fences and restroom walls, and mulched. Painting of picnic tables and benches is complete. The crew started mowing mid-April. Rec ball going on now. Broken trees have been taken down. The water is on in both parks.
- Dale Blevins hopes to open the swimming pool Memorial Day weekend. Michael distributed the list of summer activities for the pool.

Finance

- Dave Lindsey distributed a General Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment. The amendment increases police department appropriations by \$14,021, and increases revenues by the same amount. The funds, which have already been received, were provided by a Governor's Crime Commission Grant. Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the General Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Said amendment is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Mayor Harding mentioned that she wants prices for a phone tree communication system for next week's budget meeting.

TOWN ATTORNEY

Rocky Buchanan moved to enter into closed session, citing N.C. General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3): To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Council requested that Attorney Lloyd Hise, Jr., and staff members Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, and Dave Lindsey remain for closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Keen advised the Council that he wants to lease 51 Summit Avenue, having the upper level commercial and the lower level as residential. Attorney Lloyd Hise noted that zoning is applied to real estate, not buildings. The zoning of the property determines what a building can be used for. If the property were rezoned to Residential, an incidental home occupation could be allowed. Mr. Keen may apply for rezoning. Mayor Harding noted that she would not be in favor of changing the zoning.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

Mayor Harding asked for comments about the draft application for appointment to the Town Council. Consensus of those present was that the application looks fine and should be advertised for 2 weeks with a May 31, 2016 deadline.

Rocky Buchanan stated that he had asked Richard to solicit bids for mowing for this year since it hasn't been bid in a while. He noted that he has encountered questions about how much Harding Landscaping does for the town. Jeff Harding advised that he has been mowing the cemetery for 13 years with one increase. He stated that the original closed bids for mowing Riverside Park were improperly opened and put out to bid again. He noted that he donates a lot of labor to the town, and that the Town can't beat his price and performance. The amount of the contract does not require bidding at all. He stated that he will seek legal action if closed bids are open and re-bid.

It was stated that a consensus to seek bids should have been reached before approaching the Town Manager to solicit bids. Rocky Buchanan stated that he still thinks it's the right thing to do. He moved to advertise for bids for mowing. The motion died for lack of second. Mayor Harding stated that she has not accepted in the Mayor's seat.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Richard Canipe reminded Council of the budget meeting scheduled for Monday May 16th.
- ✓ ARC will decide on the pre-application for the belt press project this week.
- ✓ The BBQ festival is on track so far.
- ✓ The local water supply plan has been submitted to the state.
- ✓ Richard discussed Harris St. resurfacing. He noted that he has worked with NCDOT, which has agreed to contribute 50%. Rogers Group has the state contract for paving. \$46,500 would be our part.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM by motion of Rocky Buchanan, second by James Acuff.

Darlene Butler, Town Clerk

Darla Harding, Mayor

James Acuff, Council Member

Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

_____ absent _____
Larry McKinney, Council Member