

**Minutes**  
**Spruce Pine Town Council**  
**June 13, 2016 5:30 PM**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on June 13, 2016. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Larry McKinney and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Dave Lindsey, Phillip Hise, Billy Summerlin and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Libby Phillips, Russell Lankford, Jimmy Phillips, Beth Byerly, Josh Boone, Matt Miller, Danny Burleson, Mack Robinson, Jason Kritz, Jessica Brown 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. Larry McKinney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the agenda as presented. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Larry McKinney moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 23, 2016. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of the closed session of May 23, 2016. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Danny Burleson, chairman of the Spruce Pine ABC Board, updated the Council on the year at the ABC Store. He noted that things are going well, with sales up over 5% over last year. He presented the Council with a check for \$28,000. Per Chief Summerlin, DWI arrests in town have dropped.

Josh Boone updated the Council on Spruce Pine Fire and Rescue. He advised Council that the fire department would be willing to do a roadblock on June 25<sup>th</sup> to raise funds to replace the mulch at Riverside Park. Richard advised that insurance will cover all but \$1000 deductible. New mulch will be added to the remainder of the park as well, at a cost of about \$5000. Miller Contracting is ready to start construction of a training facility for the fire department at a cost of \$180,000. A bus extrication class will be held on June 18 and 19 for all area firefighters.

Jessica Brown updated the Council on Relay for Life, which will be held on June 24, 2016 at Mitchell High School.

Jason Kritz approached the Council about a Walk for Jesus, to be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 AM. The walk would be held from First Baptist Church, along Upper Street to City Drive-in and back to First Baptist. The walk would be on the sidewalks. Consensus of the Council was to approve the Walk for Jesus.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA

Darla Harding moved to approve a water tap for Keith and Louise Renfro at 833 Biggerstaff Rd. at outside rates with no annexation. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Rocky Buchanan moved to award a façade grant to Starli McDowell for the former McCall's building. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The grant for the building will reimburse up to \$2000. The program awards one grant per building, per 5 year period.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on the parks for May.
- The parks are busy, with 28 reservations. The pool is also busy, with rentals and regular admissions.
- Rec ball is over for the season.

#### Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. His department totaled 108 completed, with 7 still open.
- He is trying to repair pavement damaged from repairing water/sewer lines first. He distributed a sheet with estimates for patching and paving from Appalachian Paving.
- Floyd Isom will be retiring at the end of the month.
- Darla Harding mentioned the need to repaint white lines at the end of Rogers Street. Motorists pulling out of Rogers St. are blocking the way into the street. NCDOT will not place traffic lights at the top of the hill due to sight safety issues.
- James Acuff mentioned a problem with low storm drains in the English Woods.

#### Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin advised that calls are up right now. He distributed a monthly call list.
- He is fully staffed, with the hiring of David Beam.
- There have been several bear sightings.

#### Main Street

- Libby Phillips distributed a Main Street Report for the month of June. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- The fence at Overlook Park needs to be straightened up.

#### Water and Sewer

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

#### Finance

- Dave Lindsey noted that next week will be the public hearing. A budget amendment will be ready for adoption at the next meeting.
- Dave distributed an Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy. The current collection percentage is 95%.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

#### TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Richard Canipe noted that the Appalachian Regional Commission pre-application was approved for the bar screen project. A June 24<sup>th</sup> workshop will be attended. The grant, if awarded, would provide \$300,000 toward \$445,000 project.
- ✓ June 27<sup>th</sup> is the date of the budget public hearing and the Council should plan to adopt a budget.
- ✓ Riverside Park Playground damages have been turned in to the insurance company. The estimated cost of replacement parts and installation is \$19,674. The burned mulch will be replaced, with additional mulch ordered to meet requirements in the undamaged part of the playground. We hope to have the repairs completed at least by early July. Rotary BBQ profits have been generously earmarked for the playground. Richard commended Detective Stacey Hughes for his investigation of the vandalism.
- ✓ Wi-Fi is up in Central Park.
- ✓ We are currently placing cameras in Riverside Park.
- ✓ James Acuff moved to re-appoint Mack Robinson to the ABC Board for a 3-yr. term. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

Mayor Harding noted that 10 applications for the vacant Council seat were received. One applicant lives outside city limits, and is not eligible. She would like for each Council member to select their top three candidates for the meeting of June 27, then see if there is repetition of choices and if Council can reach a decision. Richard will speak with Attorney Lloyd Hise, Jr. to see if he has suggestions on narrowing down the list.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:41 PM by motion of Larry McKinney.

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Darlene Butler, Town Clerk

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Darla Harding, Mayor

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James Acuff, Council Member

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Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

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Larry McKinney, Council Member