

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, January 14, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on January 14, 2019. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Bill Summerlin, Crystal Young, Kelly Johnson, and Libby Phillips. Others attended, including David Macpherson, Maggie Haskell, Beth Byerly and Corey Spiers (Mitchell News-Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the agenda as presented. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 13, 2018. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS - none

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Public Works

- Phillip Hise was not present. Richard Canipe distributed open and closed work orders. There were 236 completed work orders and 15 open ones.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood was not present. Mayor Harding asked if the trees at the clock park could be saved. Richard advised that he doubts it.

Main Street

- Libby Phillips presented the Spruce Pine Main Street Executive Director's Report for January, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- The town council has been nominated as a 2018 North Carolina Main Street Champion, so Libby hopes the Council will attend the conference.

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford was not present. His report for December was distributed and is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin asked Council approval to promote Michael Hollifield to detective. Jackie Rensink moved to promote Michael Hollifield to detective from road officer at the chief's request. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all in favor.
- Bill asked David Macpherson, director of Spruce Pine Housing Authority, to update the council about the mountain bike course and program started at the Housing Authority. Mr. Macpherson distributed a handout about Kids on Bikes, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Bill distributed a summary of the 2018 calls to Mitchell County Communications for the Spruce Pine Police Department.
- A Shopping with a Senior program has been established to replenish the food pantry at the Senior Center, using donations for Shop with a Cop.
- Opioids continue to be a huge problem. Officer Kelly Johnson suggested purchasing a drug canine to sniff out drugs. If the dog alerts, there is probable cause to search a vehicle. The dog can find methamphetamines, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana, but not pills. A dog costs \$9400-9500 for the dog and associated training for dog and handler. Kelly will research answers for the Council regarding insurance, grants, and training specifics.

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented the audit contract for 2018/19 with Combs, Tennant & Carpenter, noting that the price did not increase.
- Crystal presented a second quarter financials summary. Said summary is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- The street sweeper was financed through United Community Bank.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the audit contract for 2018/19 with Combs, Tennant & Carpenter. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the General Fund Budget Ordinance Amendment #1 as presented. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Said amendment is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

James Acuff moved to adopt a Sewer Rehabilitation Capital Project Ordinance for the 19E Forced Main Replacement and Locust St. Rehabilitation. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Said ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Maggie Haskell thanked the Council and Bill Summerlin for addressing her problems with on-street parking a few months ago.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Town Manager Richard Canipe presented a proposed resolution that establishes an incentive program for new/existing businesses in the city limits. James Acuff moved to adopt the resolution as presented. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Said resolution is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- ✓ Richard requested permission to draft nuisance letters for two properties on Beaver Creek Rd., Carl Sillman and Richard Gunter. The consensus of the Council was to send letters. Randy Franklin has equipment parked on private property on what was formerly Beaver Creek Rd. Richard will check on the owner of that property. James Acuff asked if the property across from Spruce Pine Tire has been cleaned up. Richard will check.
- ✓ Richard presented an Update to Previously Approved Recipient's Plan to Further Fair Housing. Jackie Rensink moved to adopt the update. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Said update is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

- ✓ Mayor Harding read a thank you card from Charles and Norma Duncan.
- ✓ Mayor Harding reminded Council that a group interested in a festival and conference centered around UFOs and aliens has a future presentation. They will also be at the Main Street offices on Thursday at 6:00.

ADJOURNMENT

Jackie Rensink moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Darlene Butler
Darlene Butler, Town Clerk

Darla Harding
Darla Harding, Mayor

absent
Larry McKinney
Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem

Rocky Buchanan
Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

James Acuff
James Acuff, Council Member

Jackie Rensink
Jackie Rensink, Council Member