

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, February 25, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on February 25, 2019. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan, Larry McKinney and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, and Kelly Johnson. Others attended, including Bill Wygand, Claire Wygand 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. Larry McKinney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jackie Rensink 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 February 11, 2019. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS - none

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA - none

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Town Manager Richard Canipe described the tasks of the meeting as considering the possibility of donating, selling or leasing Brad Ragan park for a YMCA; considering the need for an appearance standard for the business district; and considering the parking of a vehicle at the end of Elm St / old Beaver Creek Rd.

ATTORNEY

Per town attorney Lloyd Hise, Jr., the town cannot simply give away part of Brad Ragan Park because it belongs to the citizens. It could be sold without upset bids for a public purpose. The YMCA would need to amend their articles so that the property (including improvements) would come back to the town if it stops being used for a YMCA. Lloyd suggested that the town would need an estimate of what the property is worth. Richard Canipe will schedule a meeting with Trey Oakley of the YMCA and Attorney Hise.

Richard advised that the design and beautification committee of Main Street was interested in developing appearance standards for the Main Street Business District. Attorney Hise advised that the Zoning Ordinance could be revised with standards on esthetics for new construction and renovations. Existing businesses would be grandfathered in, although a change of ownership or use could be require the property owner to meet the standards. Any change would have to apply to an entire zoning district. He also noted that problems with junk outside buildings could be addressed with the current ordinance or with a new ordinance that is not tied to zoning. He will work on such an ordinance. He also advised that a no trespassing sign would be more appropriate for restricting a lot than parking junked vehicles.

Lloyd will research the piece of property that is part of old Beaver Creek Rd.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

- ✓ Mayor Harding reported on local interest in signage that proclaims Spruce Pine as the home of Roy Williams, Chapel Hill basketball coach. Per Attorney Hise, the process should include research and permission from Mr. Williams, and a resolution that requests permission from NCDOT to place a sign.
- ✓ March 14th is the date for the Main Street Champions' Breakfast in Salisbury. Mayor Harding and Council Member Rensink are set to attend. Any other Council Members that wish to go will let Town Clerk Darlene Butler know.
- ✓ Officer Kelly Johnson gave the Council some information about the proposed purchase of a drug dog. He noted that the dog would be trained for 3 months, and the officer would be trained for 3 weeks. Larry McKinney moved for the town to pay for the dog. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Further discussion

clarified that the majority of Council wished to use drug forfeiture funds for the dog. Larry McKinney moved to purchase the dog with drug forfeiture funds. James Acuff seconded that motion, which carried unanimously. Richard Canipe will research the possible uses for drug forfeiture funds.


ADJOURNMENT

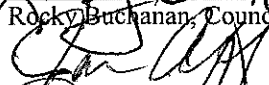
Rocky Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:52 PM.

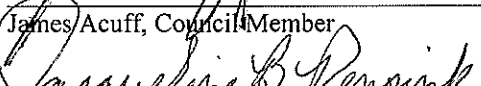

Darlene Butler, Town Clerk


Darla Harding, Mayor


Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


James Acuff, Council Member


Jackie Rensink, Council Member