

**Minutes**  
**Spruce Pine Town Council Planning Session**  
**April 08, 2019 – 5:30 PM**

A planning session of the Town Council was held on April 08, 2019 in the Board Room of Spruce Pine Town Hall at 5:30 PM. Present were Mayor Darla Harding, and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan, Jackie Rensink and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Crystal Young, Darlene Butler, Ella Edwards, Phillip Hise, Bill Summerlin, Libby Phillips, Michael Wood and Corey Spiers (Mitchell News-Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harding called the planning session to order at 5:30 PM. Town Manager Richard Canipe welcomed everyone.

Michael Wood asked the blessing before the evening meal.

DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS

Police Chief Bill Summerlin advised that he had no requests for the new budget year. Crystal Young noted that Detective Kelly Johnson is checking with other dog handlers to see how they are compensated for their time caring for drug dogs.

Parks Supervisor Michael Wood thanked the Council for their support. He advised that he has three budget requests. His highest priority request is paving for Brad Ragan and Riverside Parks. His second request is for a new mower, and he distributed three possibilities. Council asked for his recommendation on mowers, and suggested that he check the website [www.mowersdirect.com](http://www.mowersdirect.com). Michael's third request was for a piece of play equipment to replace the merry-go-round at Riverside Park. He distributed several possibilities from Playworld Systems. Each piece would need to be installed.

Russell Lankford was attending a class in Raleigh and was unable to attend the planning session. Crystal presented his requests for the Water/Sewer system.

1. North Toe River screens and wet well cleaning for approximately \$23,200.
2. Waste plant influent and return pump replacement.
3. Burleson Hill standby generator transfer switch for \$6593.95.
4. Service all backup generators for \$10,743. (Per James Acuff, get a quote from Keith House Electric.)
5. Chemical pumps and lines at the water plant for \$2625.
6. Shannon Drive Pumps for \$4266.

Libby Phillips thanked the Council for their support of Spruce Pine Main Street . She presented a 2019/20 Wish List, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. She noted that fundraising efforts will eventually be planned for the walking bridge.

Public Works Director Phillip Hise thanked the Council for their support. He is requesting no equipment for this fiscal year. He requested four budgeted items.

1. An additional full time employee for approximately \$41,000.
2. Sewer capital to clean and film sewer lines - \$15,000.
3. Storage lockers for his employees - \$1300.
4. New shop vacuum - \$110.

Finance Officer Crystal Young asked that the Council consider amending the policies that govern utility billing late fees, reconnect fees, customer-requested meter cut offs and re-reads, cold weather bill adjustments, account activation dates, tap fees and increased water deposits. She recommended no increase to the base level of water rates, but an increase of \$0.10 to each usage tier. Council asked that she present a proposed new policy with her recommendations.

Town Manager Richard Canipe expressed appreciation to the Council for their support. Admin needs include a new roof on part of Town Hall, work on the website, and renovations for the break room.

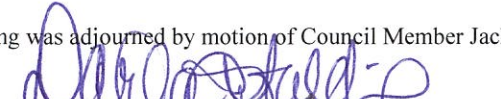
COUNCIL DISCUSSION


Council Member Rocky Buchanan asked that staff check into buying fireworks early for a better deal. He also noted that Spruce Pine Public Library personnel appreciate the recent attention to the Library by town staff.

ADJOURNMENT

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

  
Darlene J. Butler, Town Clerk

  
Darla Harding, Mayor

  
James Acuff, Council Member

  
Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

  
Larry McKinney, Council Member

  
Jackie Rensink, Council Member