

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, June 10, 2019

A meeting of the Town Council was held on June 10, 2019. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan, Jackie Rensink and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Michael Wood, Libby Phillips, Phillip Hise, Myria Hylemon, Billy Summerlin and Crystal Young. Others attended, including Cecil Burleson, Bill Wygand, Claire Wygand, Mac Robinson, Jann Godwin, Bettie Gunter, David Kadans, Leigh Kadans, Olivia Kadans, Elliot Kadans, Ellie Huendo, Julia Swann Pittman, Halley Burleson, 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. Larry McKinney 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 May 13, 2019. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 28, 2019. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

James Acuff moved to approve the minutes of the closed session of May 28, 2019. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

PUBLIC HEARING #1

Mayor Harding opened a public hearing for the purpose of hearing public comment regarding a proposal to change the zoning on one parcel of property totaling approximately 0.20 acres located at 246 Tappan Street. The property is currently zoned R-2 (Medium-density Residential) and the proposal is to change to C1-A (Central Business District Fringe District). The parcel number is 0890-17-11-2377.

Town Clerk Darlene Butler reminded those present that the Planning and Zoning Board recommended rezoning of the property.

Jann Godwin, as the realtor representing the sellers and buyers, introduced the Bessie Swann heirs present, and the proposed buyers. She advised that she met with local contractor James Phillips and town staff regarding parking. There is adequate parking on the property. The house is on the corner, and appropriate screening vegetation is planned between properties.

Prospective buyers David and Leigh Kadans informed council that they plan to move their therapist office to the house, with a private entrance in back.

Mayor Harding noted that she had received no calls of concern from neighbors, nor has the office.

With no more comments, Rocky Buchanan moved to close the public hearing.

ACTION

Rocky Buchanan moved to rezone the property located at 246 Tappan Street to C1-A. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Mac Robinson, on behalf of the Spruce Pine ABC Board, presented a profits check of \$50,000 to the Town of Spruce Pine. He stated that sales are on track for \$1.4 million in sales for the year. Chief Summerlin complimented the store, particularly with Danny Burleson in management. Council expressed their thanks to the ABC Board. Mac noted that the rehabilitation money went to a local organization, Celebrate Recovery.

PUBLIC HEARING #2

Mayor Harding opened a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed 2019/20 Budget for the Town of Spruce Pine. Finance Officer Crystal Young noted that the only changes since the last budget workshop are to add a part-time Main Street position, and promotions for the police department.

Rocky Buchanan noted that he is not in favor of adding another position in public works. James Acuff stated that he is not in favor either. Public Works Director Phillip Hise asked why they are not in favor. Rocky stated that he has always voted for any tools or equipment Phillip needed, but that he felt that work orders are being completed without another position. Phillip expressed his disappointment. He noted that older employees can't turn out the quantity of work, but are valuable sources of knowledge. Jackie Rensink noted that she has seen no frivolous requests from Phillip. Mayor Harding expressed her appreciation for the Public Works employees.

With no more comments, Jackie Rensink closed the public hearing.

ACTION

Larry McKinney moved to adopt the 2019/20 Budget as presented. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with three in favor, Rocky Buchanan and James Acuff opposing.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford was not present. Richard Canipe distributed the Veolia Monthly Operations Report for May, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- The bar screen project came in at \$30,000 under budget.
- Crystal, Shelley and Cecil toured the water and sewer plants last week. Richard noted that he would like the Council to tour the plant improvements.

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. There were 113 completed work orders and 22 open ones.
- He noted that things are going well. Problems caused by heavy rain were minor. Our side of the Carpenter Island bridge was not as damaged as the other side. A couple of loads of gravel will take care of it.
- His crew needs to do trimming on city streets.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on park work for May.
- He has developed a schedule for weeding.
- There were 18 shelter reservations for May.
- The Cub Scouts will use the park next week.
- The pool is officially open for the summer.

Main Street

- Libby Phillips presented the Spruce Pine Main Street Executive Director's Report for June, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin commended Officer Myria Hylemon for the job she's doing.
- His department is prepared for the S.P.A.C.E. Festival.
- The SBI investigation of the Pizza Shop fire is complete; he is not sure about the insurance investigation.
- He plans to move forward with the promotions of Kelly Johnson and Kasey Cook.
- He has an intern for the summer from Appalachian State University.

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented financials for the general fund and enterprise fund through May 31. The property tax collection rate was 97.3%. Today's receipts of \$8000 bring that rate to 98.2%.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to approve a sewer tap for Andrew Street, 362 Ollis Road, at outside rates with no annexation. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Spruce Pine Housing Authority requested two new appointees to the Housing Authority Board. Mayor Harding asked for clarification about why the Town Council appoints to that board when they have no oversight of it. The Council tabled the appointments to the board, pending clarification on the structure of the operation. Bill Wygand requested how many members are required on that board according to its bylaws. Richard will ask the Housing Authority Director, David McPherson for information.

Crystal Young explained Budget Ordinance Amendment #4. For the General Fund, the amendment pulls money out of capital outlay for the walking bridge, which was not used this year. Appropriations are increased for Spruce Pine Fire and Rescue, and for Powell Bill street expenditures. For the Enterprise Fund, appropriations are decreased for the plant operations contract, bad debt, and capital outlay. Appropriations are increased for utilities, contracted services and dues. James Acuff moved to approve Budget Ordinance Amendment #4 as presented. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Said amendment is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Town Manager Richard Canipe invited Council to a luncheon for staff that has been planned by intern Cecil Burlison for June 19th at noon.
- ✓ The Comprehensive Transportation Plan for Mitchell County will be presented on Wednesday at Mitchell County offices.
- ✓ Regarding the YMCA project, Richard met with Trey Oakley last week at Brad Ragan Park. The Williams YMCA has amended their bylaws as requested, stating that in the event of the failure of a Spruce Pine YMCA branch, the property reverts to the Town of Spruce Pine. The tentative plan utilizes the current tennis courts and adjoining property. The existing two courts could be moved to the multi-use pad. Richard will ask Keegan at Mitchell County to map out the property in question.
- ✓ The bar screen project was completed, and reimbursement should be received before the end of June.

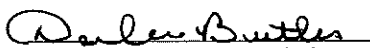
MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

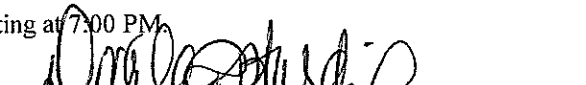
Mayor Harding mentioned trash pick up at the S.P.A.C.E. Festival. Parks supervisor Michael Wood has himself and one part-time employee for this weekend. He questioned where to deposit garbage and how to gather it if Lower Street is closed. Mayor Harding will contact Jimmy Hinshaw, the festival organizer, for clarification. She noted that Hinshaw would like volunteer local government judges for the costume contests.


Consensus of the Town Council was to tour the water and sewer plants as of the second regular meeting in July (7/22/19). Consensus was to use the second meeting of August to meet with town attorney Lloyd Hise.

ADJOURNMENT

Jackie Rensink moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 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