

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, July 08, 2019

A meeting of the Town Council was held on July 08, 2019. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members Rocky Buchanan, James Acuff, Jackie Rensink and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Michael Wood, Libby Phillips, Phillip Hise, Dale Blevins, Sawyer Blevins and Crystal Young. Others attended, including Cecil Burleson, Bill Wygand, Claire Wygand, Martha Biddix, Jimmy Phillips, Zan Sistare, Steven Vaughn, Lloyd Hise, Jr., John Boyd, Lori McIntyre, and Nicole Pendley.

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Larry McKinney moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 10, 2019. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Martha Biddix asked the Council to consider installing run city water down Vaughn Rd. She stated that the wells have so much iron that the water is not drinkable and ruins laundry. She noted that industries have moved out of Spruce Pine, so there is water available. Nicole Pendley stated that her child had iron levels more than double normal.

Per Richard Canipe, a line with thirteen taps would have to be engineered by the state. Per Mayor Harding, the town will look into the possibility.

Sawyer Blevins expressed his appreciation to the Town Council for his receipt of the Jim Brown Memorial Scholarship. He will be attending ETSU, and will study physical therapy. His father, Dale Blevins, expressed his appreciation as well.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on park work for June.
- He expressed his pride in park employee Sawyer Blevins.
- His crew had a busy month with weed control.
- The park hosted a Cub Scout camp and tennis camp.
- His crew worked the SPACE Festival.
- There were 41 shelter reservations for the month of June.
- His crew is getting Riverside Park ready for the BBQ festival.
- Pool staff have finished the 1st session of swimming lessons.
- There were five pool rentals in June. The rental cost is \$100 per hour.
- Council Member Jackie Rensink asked Michael Wood to stay on top of the kudzu at the clock park.
- The merry-go-round is at McGee Brothers Machine for repairs.

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford distributed the Veolia Monthly Operations Report for June, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Council plans to meet at the Town Hall to tour the water and wastewater plants for the second meeting in July.

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. There were 142 completed work orders and 15 open ones.
- He noted that June was a hot, busy month.
- Moretz Paving will start paving soon.
- The application period for the new public works position has closed. Interviews will begin soon.

Main Street

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

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin did not attend.

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented an Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy and Financials through June 30th. The property tax collection rate is 98.3%. Said worksheets are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- She expects to have property tax values from Mitchell County by month's end.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Harding opened a public hearing for the purpose of soliciting and receiving public comment regarding a proposed appropriation from the general revenues of the Town of Spruce Pine for economic development. The Town Council is considering an appropriation in an amount of not more than \$100,000 to assist Mayland Community College in the costs of ongoing repairs, renovations and improvements to Pinebridge Inn in Spruce Pine.

Richard Canipe advised that the current year's money will be used for Pinebridge Inn only, and will be given to Mayland Community College on a reimbursement basis.

Lori McIntyre asked from where the funds would come and was advised that the funds will come from fund balance.

With no more comments, Larry McKinney moved to close the public hearing. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

ACTION

Attorney Lloyd Hise, Jr. spoke about the resolution. He noted that the resolution provides up to \$100,000 for Pinebridge Inn for the current fiscal year. The second part of the resolution says Council may make appropriations in subsequent years in matching funds for the Coliseum facility. Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the resolution as presented. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Said resolution is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA - none

PUBLIC COMMENT

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Town Manager Richard Canipe presented a façade grant request from NAPA (Bailey Auto Parts), to reimburse for expenditures in the amount of \$1400. Jackie Rensink moved to approve the request. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ✓ The Industrial Waste Survey for Bombardier has been sent in. The short term monitoring report is almost completed.
- ✓ EDC approved and awarded the contract for a feasibility study for a hotel in Spruce Pine.
- ✓ Richard spoke with Keith Johnson, owner of the old Hampshire Building on 19E. Mr. Johnson has a contract with McGee Machining for the demolition of the building. Hartsell Metals will buy the scrap metal. Richard has requested a copy of the contract in order to forestall condemnation of the property.
- ✓ Richard has no information on the status of the investigation of the Pizza Shop fire.
- ✓ Town Clerk Darlene Butler commended intern Cecil Burlison on the job he is doing, especially on the Town's Facebook page.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

Mayor Harding asked for an update on why the Town Council appoints members to the Spruce Pine Housing Authority Board. Richard noted that he had met with the Housing Authority Director. Attorney Lloyd Hise stated that the Housing Authority is federally regulated. It was set up in the 1960's, with the Town Council appointing the board. The authority lies with the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (**HUD**). Mayor Harding stated that she has a problem with

rubber stamping the director's choices for the board. Attorney Hise advised that she recruit board members in that case. Lloyd will research the proper channels for complaints from residents of the Housing Authority apartments.

Richard advised Mayor Harding that he has no news on the proposed YMCA location in Spruce Pine.

Council Member Rocky Buchanan advised that Gene Glen on Riverside Drive needs a street sign. Richard will contact Mitchell County to place that sign.

The sewer line improvements for Avery County Highway are in the permit and planning stage. Locust Street sewer improvements are the second part of the project.

Signs on Cabin Rd. still need to be replaced.

ADJOURNMENT

Larry McKinney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 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



June 2019 Monthly Operating Report
Spruce Pine Water/Waste Plants
Operated by Veolia North America Water

Compliance: Both plants and the wells ran in compliance for the month. We caught seven bacteriological samples out in our distribution system. They were all clear with good chlorine residuals.

Flows: The water plant produced 33.85 million gallons in June. That was an average of 1.13 million gallons per day. We used 640,000 gallons to backwash our filters. The wells added another 3.7 million gallons. The waste plant received 29.07 million gallons for the month. That was average of 969,000 gallons per day.

Water plant and system: The plant is running good. We averaged a .03 ntu's on point of entry water. The limit is .3 ntu's. We also averaged a 1.53 ppm chlorine residual on point of entry water. #1 filter waste gate broke and would not open. McGee brothers welding came and repaired it on 6-12-19. The Beaver Creek dam is overflowing all the way across.

Waste plant and system: The waste plant had an influent average of 152 on BOD and an effluent average of 2.7. That was a removal rate of 98%. It also had an influent average of 218 on TSS and an effluent average of 5.4. That is a removal rate of 98%. Mica Street has been totally rebuilt by Kemp. New controls, pumps, pipes and check valves. They also put in hand rails and a quick connect bypass if we ever need one. This station was worn out and needed rebuilt desperately. It will pay for itself in a short period of time. The new bar screen is running great. We pressed out 7 cans of solids off our belt press in June.

Misc: We trained on hearing protection safety in June. We did 83 work orders in the month.

Russell Lankford
Project Manager
Veolia North America

Spruce Pine Main Street Directors Report

- **PR-** Movies are scheduled for the next 3 weekends in July. PR committee is working out the details of the website information as well as planning out small business Saturday and seasonal races at our events. We had an amazing turnout for July 4th with a DJ, snacks and games for the kids. Town was packed from end to end. Many thanks to the town for the great fireworks show! We hosted Parkway Playhouse and Penland in the park Saturday for a children's theater. BBQ festival is the 19th and 20th at Riverside park.
- **D&B-** We have been working on proposals for the bridge project and grant requests are in process. We are working on a formalized bidding process for the sidewalk project. A thank you note was sent to the community member that cleaned and landscaped the sitting area at the Vesper lodge.
- **ERC**—The town has been extremely busy this past month. Capone's opened the middle of June and has been busy every night. The old Spoon location is now available as well as the dance studio space. Not Bob's building has been rented on a 5-year lease. Renter plans to open a brewery in the location. Ribbon cutting is scheduled this Wednesday for Pisgah Legal services, now located in the Wylie offices. Improvements continue on the Mayland building. We are co-hosting a lunch and learn with the small business center Tuesday, July 9th in the visitor center. The topic is specific for small businesses and focuses on customer service, social media and business reviews. Chilly Bones Ice Cream and Treasures in the Pine's are both scheduled to open this month as well.
- **Organization-** Managers meeting is coming up the first week of August. We have picked up some new board members. I am finalizing the end of year statistics for downtown investment and will have available for the August meeting. The numbers are impressive thus far.

Town of Spruce Pine
 Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy
 06/30/19
 excluding vehicle taxes

	Property Valuation	Town-wide Rate	Amount of Levy
Original levy:			
Real property	160,636,523	\$0.51	
Personal property	38,192,590		
Public service companies	15,895,253		
Penalties			
	<u>214,724,366</u>		<u>1,095,094.47</u>
Discoveries:			
Current year taxes	290,907		1,483.63
Prior year taxes	<u>290,907</u>		<u>1,483.63</u>
Abatements	187,620		956.86
Total property valuation	<u><u>214,827,653</u></u>		
Net levy			<u>1,095,621.24</u>
Uncollected taxes at 6/30/2019			<u>(18,866.23)</u>
Current year's taxes collected			<u><u>1,076,755.01</u></u>
Current levy collection percentage			<u><u>98.3%</u></u>

Town of Spruce Pine Financials
Ending June 30th
FY 2018-2019



2018-2019 Budget Figures				
		<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>Y-T-D June 30th</u>	
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Percent</u>
General Fund Revenue				
Levied Taxes and Penalties		\$1,189,399	\$1,205,606	101.4%
Local Sales Tax		\$504,928	\$482,479	95.6%
Franchise Taxes		\$282,964	\$294,371	104.0%
Powell Bill		\$83,566	\$81,168	97.1%
Interest Earned		\$20,657	\$31,603	153.0%
Recreation Park Revenue		\$25,769	\$27,861	108.1%
Revolving Loan Repayments		\$43,667	\$54,004	123.7%
Misc Income		\$102,698	\$107,612	104.8%
Grants		\$24,498	\$24,455	99.8%
Other Revenue Sources		\$200,000	\$200,000	100.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$271,668	\$0	0.0%
General Fund Revenue		\$2,749,814	\$2,509,158	91.2%
General Fund Expenditures				
Governing Body		\$22,059	\$21,650	98.1%
Total Administration & Finance		\$228,098	\$186,560	81.8%
Cost of Elections		\$0	\$0	#DIV/0!
Tax Collections Fees		\$4,400	\$3,974	90.3%
Economics		\$112,808	\$109,125	96.7%
Total Public Building & Facilities		\$137,510	\$124,109	90.3%
Fire Department		\$126,316	\$114,956	91.0%
Building Inspections		\$23,468	\$17,517	74.6%
Police Department		\$860,326	\$787,213	91.5%
Public Works		\$362,941	\$352,677	97.2%
Powell Bill		\$270,113	\$259,277	96.0%
Sanitation		\$75,307	\$69,512	92.3%
Parks & Recreation		\$215,693	\$188,990	87.6%
Library		\$91,235	\$89,815	98.4%
Trac Grant		\$6,000	\$6,000	100.0%
Cemetery		\$18,540	\$15,000	80.9%
Loan Disbursements		\$195,000	\$186,902	95.8%
Total General Fund Expenditures		\$2,749,814	\$2,533,278	92.1%
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>		\$0	-\$24,120	

Town of Spruce Pine Financials
Ending June 30th
FY 2018-2019



	<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>Y-T-D June 30th</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>Percent</u>
2018-2019 Budget Figures			
<u>Water & Sewer Fund</u>			
Charges for Water	\$1,382,443	\$1,417,221	103%
Charges for Sewer	\$992,667	\$939,232	95%
Water & Sewer Taps	\$10,000	\$16,020	187%
Water & Sewer Interest	\$71	\$0	0%
Misc Revenues	\$19,199	\$21,713	129%
Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$69,390	\$0	#DIV/0!
Water & Sewer Revenue	\$2,473,770	\$2,394,186	97%
<u>Water & Sewer Expenditures</u>			
Water & Sewer Debt	\$24,260	\$24,260	100%
Water & Sewer Administration	\$1,219,967	\$1,140,936	94%
Water Expense	\$629,967	\$602,282	96%
Sewer Expense	\$599,576	\$486,318	81%
Water & Sewer Expenditures	\$2,473,770	\$2,253,795	91%
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>	\$0	\$140,391	

TOWN OF SPRUCE PINE

MAYLAND COMMUNITY COLLEGE RESOLUTION

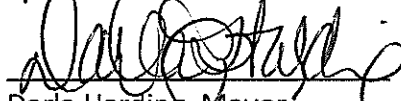
BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town of Spruce Pine appropriates to Mayland Community College the amount of One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000.00) Dollars to be disbursed from the general revenue of the Town of Spruce Pine to be used by Mayland Community College exclusively for repairs, renovations and improvements as may be necessary to receive a certificate of occupancy for Pinebridge Inn as a lodging facility for paying guests.

That in future years through FY 2028-2029 the Town of Spruce Pine will appropriate to Mayland Community College from general revenue that is not needed for other purposes up to the maximum amount of \$100,000.00 as matching funds to assist in paying the costs of proposed repairs, renovations and improvements to the Pinebridge Coliseum facility owned by Mayland Community College and located in Spruce Pine. The committment of all future funds is subject to the availability of the funds and will be appropriated only after publication of notice and public hearing.

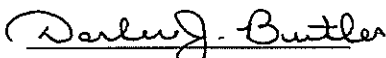
This Resolution read and approved following a public hearing held before the Spruce Pine Town Council after publication of notice of public hearing pursuant to the requirements of NCGS 158-7.1(c).

Read and Approved by the Spruce Pine Town Council in a regular meeting held on the 8th day of July 2019.

Spruce Pine Town Council


Darla Harding, Mayor

Attest:


Town Clerk