

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, August 12, 2019**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on August 12, 2019. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Jackie Rensink and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Richard Canipe, Darlene Butler, Michael Wood, Libby Phillips, Phillip Hise, Bill Summerlin, Matthew Custode, and Crystal Young. Others attended, including Jeff Harding, Jimmy Hinshaw, Zan Sistare, Connor Summerlin, Cecil Burleson, and Corey Spiers, Mitchell News-Journal.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Darla Harding called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. James Acuff gave the invocation. Larry McKinney 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

Larry McKinney moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 22, 2019. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS

Jeff Harding turned over his appointment to speak about the Toe Jam Festival to Jimmy Hinshaw. Jimmy thanked the town. The festival is a hundred percent funded. The theater parking lot will be closed Friday and Saturday. Locust Street to Link Street will be closed on Saturday, August 31. There will be seven bands, as well as kids' activities.

Keith Moir did not attend.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young went over general fund and water/sewer budget figures through July 31st.
- The 2019 tax file has been received from Mitchell County. Southern Software is converting the data for billing.
- A list of outstanding property taxes was distributed.
- Crystal met with a company representative from Business Information Systems regarding the possibility of adding a link to the Town's website in order to pay bills online. A convenience fee would be passed along to the customer, with no cost to the Town. The Council voiced no concerns.
- Crystal, Ella and Richard may attend training offered by the UNC School of Government regarding the debt setoff program.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood updated the Council on park work for July.
- He thanked Public Works for taking the merry-go-round for repairs. It has been repaired and re-installed.
- There were 40 shelter reservations for July. Reservations will be taken through September.
- There were 29 students in the second session of swim lessons. Water walking averaged 12 attendees. The pool closed after last weekend.
- Michael picked up the new park mower. It is a Bobcat mower that is working great. He has begun mowing the area on Hwy. 226 S near the town sign.

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford distributed the Veolia Monthly Operations Report for July, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Public Works

- Phillip Hise distributed open and closed work orders. There were 165 completed work orders and 18 open ones.
- Repairs have been made to the chipper, which is 21 years old.
- His crew has been busy cleaning streets of tree branches and encroaching vegetation.
- Paving is finished, and looks really good.

- Phillip advised that phone numbers need to be updated on utility accounts. When he works in an area he needs good phone numbers to call residents. He asked if the water bills could include a request for updated information.

Main Street

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

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin noted that his department has been working on the vehicle break-in cases.
- Officer Kelly Johnson is training with the new drug dog, whose name is Tank. He is 2-years-old.
- The Chief talked about the Remember When Festival, which is dedicated to Calvin Hall. It will be held downtown on September 21, from 9-5.
- Mayor Harding thanked Jimmy Hinshaw for all he has put into Spruce Pine this year. Jeff Harding mentioned that Shepherd's Staff food bank is struggling. They will have a booth at the Toe Jam festival for donations. A car show as a benefit for Shepherd's Staff is planned at the festival as well.

CONSENT AGENDA - none

ACTION AGENDA

Town Manager Richard Canipe presented a request from Quartz Corporation for a sewer tap at a new maintenance building. They have paid a \$2400 tap fee. Jackie Rensink moved to provide sewer at outside rates with no annexation to the Quartz Corporation, KT Plant, at 8342 Hwy. 226S. James Acuff seconded the motion which carried with all present in favor.

Richard presented a proposed agreement for transporting involuntary commitments. Chief Summerlin has signed off on the agreement. Jackie Rensink moved to adopt the Memorandum of Transportation Agreement with the Mitchell County Sheriff's Office. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Appalachian State University Intern Cecil Burleson thanked the Town and Council for his internship opportunity. He received a satisfactory grade. The Council asked him to visit often and to refer other interns. Town Manager Richard Canipe expressed his appreciation to department heads for allowing Cecil to spend time in each department. He commended Cecil on a job well-done.

Jimmy Hinshaw advised the Council that his company does surveillance. He offered to demonstrate downtown surveillance to the Council. Mayor Harding asked him to put something together to show the Council.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Town Manager Richard Canipe noted that the Rotary Club will pay for half of the merry-go-round repairs. Council expressed their appreciation.
- ✓ Council will use their regular meeting of August 26th to either tour the sewer plant, or meet with Attorney Lloyd Hise regarding appearance standards.
- ✓ The Town has applied to ARC for permission to use the remaining funds from the bar screen project for pump repair.
- ✓ The Town received approval from the State of North Carolina for the 19E sewer line project.
- ✓ Richard requested RSVP's this week for attending the High Country Council of Government's banquet on Sept. 6.
- ✓ Council Member Larry McKinney asked about the possibility of repaving Bridgeview Rd. Richard advised that it would cost about \$8000 to pave 200 feet, which is not in the budget. He noted that the street near the residences in good condition.
- ✓ Richard advised the Council that Jerry McGee has been hired by the owner to clean up the Hampshire Hosiery building on Hwy. 19E. Mayor Harding stated that she would expect clean up to begin by August 26th.
- ✓ Richard will check with the owners of the Pizza Shop about cleaning up their property that was destroyed in a fire. Mayor Harding requested an answer by August 26th.
- ✓ Richard updated the Council on his research into a waterline extension on Vaughn Lane as requested by Martha Biddix. If more than 1000 feet of pipe is required, the first 1000 feet must be 6-inch line. The project would have to be engineered, permitted and placed out for bids at significant cost. Per Mayor Harding, it is probably not feasible. Richard will contact Martha Biddix.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

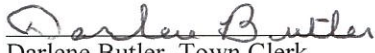
Mayor Harding asked about the YMCA update. Richard will contact them for the next step.


Council Member Jackie Rensink asked if Attorney Hise had been working on the appearance ordinance for the next meeting in August. Manager Richard Canipe will check with him.

Richard contacted the business owner regarding trash and rodents in the alley between Oak Avenue and Locust Street. The owner contracts with GDS for garbage pick up. Richard advised her that she must use closed containers.

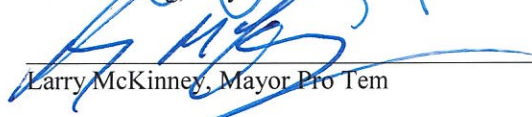
ADJOURNMENT

Jackie Rensink moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48 PM.


Darlene Butler, Town Clerk



Darla Harding, Mayor



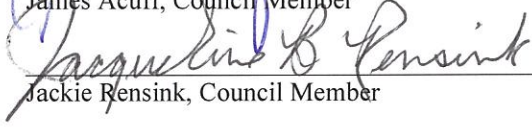
Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem

absent

Rocky Buchanan, Council Member



James Acuff, Council Member



Jackie Rensink, Council Member