

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, May 24, 2021**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on May 24, 2021. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan, and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Crystal Young, Shelley Buchanan, and Michael Briggs.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney 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. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Acuff moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 10, 2021. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS - NONE

ACTION AGENDA

Rocky Buchanan moved to provide water and sewer at outside rates with no annexation to Rodney Gouge at 5537 South 226 Hwy Bakersville, NC 28705. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Finance Officer Crystal Young presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget, noting that all capital requests are included for discussion purposes. This proposal is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. The Town is currently at a 97.8% tax collection rate, and the tax rate for next year will remain at \$.51.

For public works, Council opted to approve funding for a new mowing tractor, tool box for shop, rain suits for maintenance crew, and roof for maintenance shed on Roan Rd (when material prices come back down to normal).

Funding is included for repaving Boone St, Valley Rd, Fairground St, Spruce Ave., and Cross St. Council chose to eliminate paving Kim Thickets Rd and Creed Pittman Rd for this budget year. \$5,000 for new striping downtown is also included.

For the police department, Council opted to approve money for crackdown on drug abuse in city limits, ammunition, a laptop, and 3 printers for police vehicles.

The Council has opted to fund Mitchell County Chamber of Commerce and Toe River Arts Council \$5,000 each. For Spruce Pine Public Library, an additional \$4,785 for operating expenses is include.

For parks and recreation, Council opted to seek quotes on repaving the walking trail at Riverside Park. They also wish to leave out the smart TV and desktop computer. A laptop and printer has been budgeted and \$1,000 for a sign. It was the consensus of the Council that the budget for a new lawn mower be raised from \$300 to \$600.

The water and sewer budget includes an increase of \$1.00 on the water and sewer minimum usage of 2,000 gallons if inside city limits and an increase of \$1.50 if outside city limits. The administrative water and sewer budget includes funding for 46 new water meters. A new Hydrant Fee will begin to be assessed as of July 1st to those who choose to fill up their swimming pool or any other container from a town fire hydrant. This fee will be \$50.00 plus the cost of the water.

The administrative department has no budget requests but did mention they will be implementing emailed bills soon and offering water customers a one-time \$5.00 bill credit for signing up. This process will save the administrative department considerable time and money.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Darlene thanked Rocky and Larry for coming to the Grand Opening of the new pump track at Brad Ragan Park last weekend. She said she feels this will be a real positive thing for this kids in the community.
- ✓ The sewer line rehab project for 19 E is at completion and they will be starting in town on Locust St soon.
- ✓ She advised the Council that Lloyd Hise is currently working on an Appearance Standards Ordinance before we can begin having committee meetings.
- ✓ Darlene, Phillip Hise, and Russell Lankford met with a Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plan advisor to work on a plan for Spruce Pine. Thanks to Russell's dedication the town saved \$20,000 in engineering fees.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

- The Council thanked Crystal for her hard work on the budget proposal.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Rocky Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:10 PM.


Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

Absent

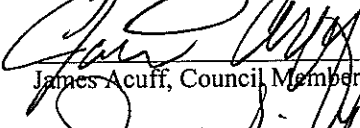
Darla Harding, Mayor



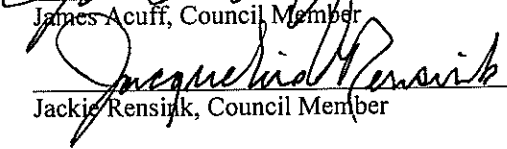
Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem



Rocky Buchanan, Council Member



James Acuff, Council Member



Jackie Rensink, Council Member