

**Minutes**  
**Spruce Pine Town Council**  
**Monday, July 12, 2021**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on July 12, 2021. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney and Council Members Rocky Buchanan, James Acuff and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Bill Summerlin, Kelly Johnson, Phillip Hise, Crystal Young, Libby Phillips and Michael Wood. Others attended, including Russell Lankford, Wendy Smith, Chase Thomas, Jack Jensen, Josh Boone, and Ariana Maniatis (Mitchell News Journal).

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Jackie Rensink gave the invocation. Rocky Buchanan led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the agenda. 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 held on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

**Parks & Rec**

- Michael Wood presented his report for Parks and Recreation, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Michael explained we are still waiting on the pool pump and motor to be delivered.

**Police Department**

- Police Chief Bill Summerlin advised the Council they continue to be focused on drug efforts and that the K9 officer is working out very well.
- He explained they will be having a bigger presence in the Riverside Park due to adolescent girls fighting there.
- Council member Rocky Buchanan asked about littering around the trash cans below his home on Balsam Ave. He then requested that Darlene look into purchasing a portable camera that can be moved around town to high litter areas so citations may be given.
- Chief Summerlin brought it to the Council's attention there are at least 30 homeless people living in the town limits.

**Finance**

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented fourth quarter financials. Said reports are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Water and sewer revenues were down last year.
- Crystal is optimistic this year will be better with the rate increases.
- She received notification that the first round of ARPA funds will be deposited this week in the amount of \$341,484.00
- Crystal provided the Council with the property taxes to be written off the next three years

**Public Works**

- Phillip Hise presented open and closed work orders for May. He explained that the majority of the work orders have been for brush pickup.
- He advised the PRC leak lost 500,000 gallons in 20 minutes due to a 14-foot split in a pipe.
- The sewer project on Locust is coming along well, however challenging.
- Rocky Buchanan asked Phillip to express the Council's appreciation to James Phillips for all his help this month.
- The new Kubota Tractor is in Kings Mountain waiting on a hydraulic pump.
- Darlene thanked Phillip for his extra work and long hours he put in during the water break we had in July.

**Main Street**

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

**Water & Sewer**

- Russell Lankford presented his water and sewer report from Veolia. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

APPOINTMENTS

Josh Boone- Mr. Boone attended tonight’s meeting to request a solicitation permit. Spruce Pine Fire and Rescue is asking to hold a road block at the intersection on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup>. This will be to raise funds for projects such as The Angel Tree and Shop with a Cop. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to allow the solicitation. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Josh also told the Council the Fire Department had just returned from Buffalo, NY doing the final inspection on a new tanker. This will be the first brand new truck the department has purchased in 27 years. He generously invited the Council to the department to see the new tanker once it has arrived. He also encouraged the Council to visit the department anytime as their meals and meetings are always open.

Jack Jensen- Mr. Jensen attended the meeting to discuss a plan he has to build and operate an RV Park on Carter’s Ridge Road. His plan consists of 8-10 RV pads. He advised that the property will not perk for septic tanks, therefore he is asking the Town to run a sewer line from behind One Main Financial out Carters Ridge Road. Phillips Hise discussed the cost of the design, engineering, right-of-way acquisition, and the line extension. Council member Rocky Buchanan stated that he didn’t believe the Town would ever recoup the cost of the extension of this sewer line outside of city limits.

ACTION AGENDA- none

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS

- ✓ Council asked that Darlene look into a portable camera for the use of catching individuals littering.
- ✓ Town Attorney Lloyd Hise elaborated on the powers and duties of the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney made a motion to appoint David Hughes to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. James Acuff made a motion to appoint Chase Thomas to the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Mayor Pro Tem Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Town Manager

- ❖ Darlene presented a resolution to abandon a portion of public alleyway (behind 79 Hazel on the Amethyst St end)
- ❖ James Acuff made a motion to adopt the resolution. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. This will be subject to the addition that the requesting party pays for cost of the town attorney’s work, advertisement, recordation, posting, etc. Said resolution is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- ❖ Town Attorney Lloyd Hise reminded Council of his plan to retire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. He has been the town’s attorney since 1974.
- ❖ Jackie requested directional arrows on Locust Street where the road divides when lines are repainted later this summer.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion Jackie Rensink moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 PM.

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Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

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Absent  
Darla Harding, Mayor

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Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem

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Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

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James Acuff, Council Member

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Jackie Rensink, Council Member