

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, November 22, 2021**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on November 22, 2021. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members Larry McKinney, James Acuff, Jackie Rensink and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Billy Summerlin, Darlene Butler and Shelley Buchanan.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Darla Harding called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Rocky Buchanan gave the invocation. James Acuff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to approve the agenda as presented. James Acuff 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 November 8, 2021. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPOINTMENTS - NONE

ACTION AGENDA

James Acuff made a motion to provide water at outside rates with no annexation to Robert L. Hoilman at 133 Hillside Dr. Spruce Pine, NC. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Darlene shared that she attended the Rural Transportation Coordination Committee meeting recently where it was announced that NCDOT is over budget on their funding and any project not currently in the pipe line will be postponed.
- ✓ The Pine Line Shuttle is well underway and is getting more attention and use every day.
- ✓ The sewer line rehab project on Locust St is winding down and will be complete soon.
- ✓ Main Street will close on the sale of the Mayland Printing building on December 15th.
- ✓ Darlene mentioned she is very excited about the funding in the state budget that was just passed.
- ✓ She attended a ribbon cutting ceremony last week for Claudia's restaurant in the Commons shopping center.
- ✓ This coming Saturday is Small Business Saturday down town.
- ✓ James Acuff agreed to drive the Town's Explorer in the Kiwanis parade this Saturday.
- ✓ Darlene spoke to a lady from Blue Ridge Regional Hospital who advised that Covid cases are down, as well as hospitalizations and infusions. Mayor Harding added her appreciation and pride in the fact that our hospital is offering the Covid infusions when larger hospitals in this area are not.
- ✓ An independent firm is still scoring potential sites for a combined industrial park.
- ✓ Whitson's Electric has put up the Christmas lights in town and are scheduled this week to check and replace any lights that are not burning.
- ✓ Withers Ravenel is still working on the engineering contract for the Hwy 226 water line extension project.
- ✓ Darlene mentioned that Shelley has been busy planning the annual Christmas employee lunch that will be held at the Town Hall on December 8th. All employees and Council are invited.

- ✓ Darlene asked for adoption of her contract as Town Manager. James Acuff made a motion to approve the contract as written. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

MAYOR/COUNCIL

- Mayor Darla Harding opened a discussion about hiring a new Town attorney once Lloyd Hise retires. After some discussion the consensus of the council was to approach Beth Holmes at Holmes and Holmes to see if she would be interested in taking on that role.
- Mayor Harding asked if there was an ordinance prohibiting people from parking on the sidewalks in town. The sidewalks are brand new and are already showing wear and cracks from vehicles being parked on them. Darlene advised there is an ordinance already in place. She plans to make copies of said ordinance and give them to the Police Dept to hand out as a warning before a city citation is written.
- Council member Rocky Buchanan asked for an update on finding a replacement for Phillip Hise when he retires in February as Public Works Director. Darlene advised she has taken 12 applications. She plans to narrow it down to the most qualified and start interviews soon.


ADJOURNMENT

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

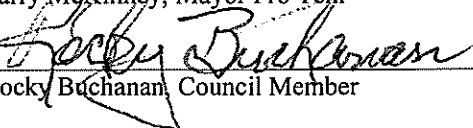
Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk



Darla Harding, Mayor




Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem



Rocky Buchanan, Council Member

James Acuff, Council Member



Jackie Rensink, Council Member