

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council Planning Session
March 28, 2022 – 5:30 PM

A regular meeting of the Town Council was held on March 28th, 2022 in the Board Room of Spruce Pine Town Hall at 5:30 PM for the purpose of budget planning and discussion. Present were Mayor Darla Harding, and Council Members Rocky Buchanan, Jackie Rensink, and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Crystal Young, Shelley Buchanan, Ella Edwards, Brooke Peterson, Bill Summerlin, Libby Phillips, Rick McDonald, and Michael Wood. Also attending was Russell Lankford with Veolia.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Harding called the planning session to order at 5:30 PM.

INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Rocky Buchanan gave the invocation. Larry McKinney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael Wood asked the blessing before the evening meal.

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

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on March 14th, 2022. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

ACTION AGENDA

Finance Officer Crystal Young presented ARPA Budget Amendment #1 to the Council. This amendment made changes in ARPA Fund appropriations and is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to adopt ARPA Budget Amendment #1. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

Crystal then presented an Ordinance Establishing the Standard Allowance Approach for the Town of Spruce Pine's Use of its American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Funds. Said ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Larry McKinney made a motion to adopt this ordinance. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

DISCUSSION WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS

Police Chief Bill Summerlin expressed his appreciation for the Town Council's consideration on his budget requests. He requested six budgeted items.

- 1) One new patrol vehicle for \$47,430.13.
- 2) New taser prong cartridges for \$333.10, taser batteries for \$872.30, and a new taser for their newest officer.
- 3) Storage lockers for new evidence room for approximately \$1,000.
- 4) Laptops, printers, inverters for remaining police vehicles that do not have them currently for \$3,460 and two additional Jetpack MiFi's for \$37.99 per month.
- 5) Operations money for detective- \$2,000.
- 6) Three-five new radars at \$1,291 each.

Finance Officer Crystal Young distributed worksheets on Budget Considerations for 22/23, noting an increase in state retirement employers' contribution. She also noted a 5% decrease in dental insurance and a 2% decrease in medical. Crystal advised the Council that an increase in the professional services category will be necessary this year as a result of the new Town attorney's fees. Also requested is an increase of \$7,781.00 for the Spruce Pine Public Library. She presented the budget vs actual totals. She also recommended a 10% increase in the supplies and materials category due to rising costs. Rocky Buchanan asked Crystal to find how much longer the SPVFD contract has left.

Veolia Project Manager Russell Lankford expressed his appreciation for the Town and the Council for being so good to him and his department. He then presented the items he is requesting to be budgeted for water and wastewater, which are incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Russell and Darlene hope that some of these projects will be awarded grant funding. Darlene advised that the grant period ends on May 2nd, 2022, therefore she feels these items need to be budgeted for in case the grant funding does not come through.

- 1) Two laser turbidimeters from Hach for \$2,056.90 and one controller for \$990.50.
- 2) Beaver Creek lift station pump- \$15,285.20 and lower prison lift station pump- \$13,990.
- 3) SO2 Scales at waste plant- \$1945.80.

- 4) BOD Probe- \$794.01.
- 5) PH Meter and Stirrer- \$723.80
- 6) Return Meter- \$9,980.
- 7) Summit water pump and pump motor- \$1,189.93.
- 8) Carters Ridge lift station rails and pump feet- \$31,700.
- 9) Henredon lift station- \$74,900.

Public Works Director Rick McDonald shared his budget requests with the Council.

- 1) Two new F-150 pickup trucks under the state contract -\$51,174.24.
- 2) Replacement of shop roof for approximately \$34,000.
- 3) Areas in need of patching for approximately \$32,600.
- 4) Water valve insertions and sewer line cleaning (15% of lines annually)- \$25,000.
- 5) Water meters- \$40,497
- 6) Tools for shop- \$3,450 Tools for water taps- \$3,885.79
- 7) Signs and bedliners for new trucks- \$2,830.
- 8) Hammer for backhoe- \$5,998.99.

Libby Phillips of Spruce Pine Main Street thanked the Council for their support. She presented Main Street Budget requests for 2022-2023.

- 1) Streetscape Planning & Design- \$15,000.
- 2) Façade Grant increase of \$4,000.
- 3) Skating Rink- \$7,600.

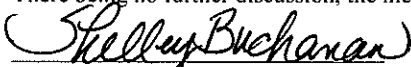
Parks and Recreation Director Michael Wood thanked the Council for their support of his department. For the upcoming budget year, he requested three budgeted items.

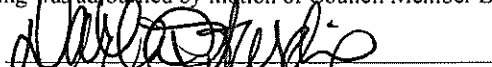
- 1) Replacement of his 4X4 town truck- \$27,000.
- 2) Riverside Park Playground Equipment- Swings and duo seesaw for approximately \$2,750.
- 3) Brad Ragan Pool- Diving Board for \$6,700 and Tile Replacement for \$1,712.

Town Manager Darlene Butler requested that the Council consider installing electric car chargers in town. She provided a quote from Whitson Electric Company and requested \$5,000. She also gave the Council a proposal from Appalachian Protective Services to install a four camera NVR and two IP cameras for \$2,775. Darlene advised the Council she received a quote from Moretz Paving to replace the broken concrete with asphalt from the sidewalk to the street in front of The Grove Church in the amount of \$3,200, and a quote from Miller Contracting to put a six inch concrete sidewalk back there for \$2,500. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to ask Miller Contracting to replace the sidewalk with concrete. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Darlene then asked that the Council consider moving Police Chief Bill Summerlin from pay grade 19 to pay grade 20, which is an increase in salary of \$3,200. Darlene's last item for consideration is from Sheila Blalock with Mitchell County Transportation and the Pine Line Shuttle. Sheila is requesting the Council fund operations for the Pine Line Shuttle once the grant funding runs out in the amount of \$27,329. This will operate the shuttle from February to June 2023. Darlene and the Council agree they would like to see the county contribute more towards this effort, and plan to have discussions with the county commissioners.

ADJOURNMENT


There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Council Member Larry McKinney at 7:50 pm.

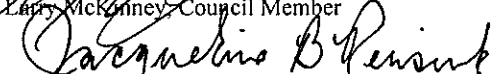

 Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


 Darla Harding, Mayor

Absent
 James Acuff, Council Member


 Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


 Larry McKinney, Council Member


 Jackie Rensink, Council Member