

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, April 11, 2022

A meeting of the Town Council was held on April 11, 2022. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members Jackie Rensink, Larry McKinney, James Acuff and Rocky Buchanan. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Crystal Young, Michael Wood, Shelley Buchanan, Rick McDonald and Libby Phillips. Others attended, including Russell Lankford, Chad Donahoo, and Mark Miller.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to approve the agenda. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 28, 2022. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood presented his Parks and Recreation Director's report for the month of March, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. He also mentioned that the cracked slide at Riverside Park playground had already been identified and roped off before a concerned citizen took pictures and reported it on Face Book. Council Member Jackie Rensink thanked Michael for the trash cleanup he and his staff had done.

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented the financials through the end of March. She noted that the property tax collection rate is currently at 96.9% and the delinquent tax ad will run in the Mitchell News Journal on April 22nd. She provided the Council with a rough draft of the budget and told them would discuss line by line at the next meeting. She then mentioned that the Public Works department would greatly benefit from a new device that attaches to their meter reading wands allowing them to see current and past readings over the last 30 days. The cost of this device is \$487.00 and would be purchased from Ferguson. Crystal let Rocky know that the Fire Department contract will be up in 2033.

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford presented his water and sewer report from Veolia. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. He also mentioned that the price of chemicals has risen for seventh time in the last fifteen months.

Public Works

- Rick McDonald updated the Council on open and closed work orders for the last month. The department had 114 closed and 9 open work orders. He noted that most of the work orders the last month have been for brush pick up. He plans to start doing some small pothole patching jobs next week.

Main Street

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

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin was unable to attend.

ACTION AGENDA

Darlene Butler presented the Council with a rezoning request made by Mr. James Phillips/Yancey Timber Resources LLC, and the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board. The request was to rezone 40.92 acres of land off of South Dale St from residential to industrial. It was the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board to approve this request and

move forward with a Public Hearing. The Council agreed and instructed the Town Clerk Shelley Buchanan to advertise the Public Hearing in the Mitchell News Journal and set the date for May 9th.

Darlene Butler presented an Amendment to Ordinance Establishing and Defining Primary Fire Limits within the Town of Spruce Pine. She explained this change will help building owners in town considerably when making renovations. This amendment will take the current two hour rating requirement down to a one hour rating. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to adopt the Amendment to Ordinance Establishing and Defining Primary Fire Limits within the Town of Spruce Pine. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS

Mark Miller addressed the Council concerning extending water and sewer services on Thompson Road. This is outside city limits and currently the Town does have water service up to 50 Thompson Road. He is planning to put in a mobile home park on 5.5 acres to be used for HUD housing. According to Phillip Hise sewer services are not feasible at this location but water services would be available with the addition of a booster pump station. Mr. Miller was asking the Town fund the project, which would have to be engineered by the state and would be very expensive. Rocky Buchanan told Mr. Miller it is just not feasible for the town to fund this project, however if they get the water lines run to the property, they could fill out a tap application for water service. Darlene explained the cost and process of applying for a water tap.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

TOWN MANAGER

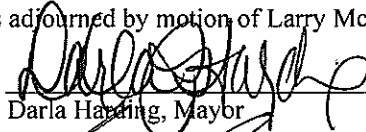
- ✓ Darlene Butler updated the Council on the infrastructure grants she has been working on with the HCCOG. There are four applications she is sending in for consideration. Application #1- Sullins Branch water line replacement, Deer Park Lake Dr water line replacement, Cemetery Hill/Summit Avenue water line replacement, Golf Course water line replacement, and replace Mchone water pump station. Application # 2- New water storage tank Hwy 226 and Summit Ave pump station upgrade and water treatment plant connection line replacement. Application #3- Replace sewer pipe to Beaver Creek pump station. Application #4- Rebuild Henredon pump station, rebuild depot pump station, rebuild Sullins Branch pump station, and rebuild wastewater treatment plant clarifier. Darlene read the resolution for each application to the Council. Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the Resolution By the Governing Body for application #1. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Larry McKinney moved to adopt the Resolution By the Governing Body for application #2. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. James Acuff moved to adopt the Resolution By the Governing Body for application #3. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Rocky Buchanan moved to adopt the Resolution By the Governing Body for application #4. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Said resolutions are incorporated by reference and are attached to these minutes.
- ✓ She then presented two bids on paving Locust Street. The lowest bid came from Moretz Paving at \$83,400. Which does include milling down the current pavement, adjusting drains, and striping. Darlene confirmed ARPA Funds can be used to fund this work. Larry McKinney made a motion to move forward with the bid from Moretz Paving. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ✓ Darlene discussed the importance of getting a Land Use Plan in place as soon as possible. She asked the Council to consider allowing \$12,000 in next years budget to get this accomplished with the help of the HCCOG.
- ✓ Darlene updated the Council on the skateboard park. She is currently trying to get clarification from FEMA about the use of the proposed location at Riverside Park. Because the land was purchased with FEMA funds after it flooded several years ago it is governed differently. She noted to the Council they may want to be considering an alternate location for the skate park in the meantime.
- ✓ Applications for the Jim Brown Scholarship have been taken and will be awarded at the MHS awards banquet.
- ✓ Council was reminded Town Hall will be closed Friday, April 15th for Easter.
- ✓ Darlene informed the Council that the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners have scheduled a Public Hearing and joint meeting with the Town of Bakersville and the Town of Spruce Pine to discuss the use of funds from the Opioid Settlement Funds and to encourage collaboration between local governments within the county.
- ✓ Bill Summerlin and volunteers picked up 440 lbs of trash over the weekend. The next scheduled volunteer trash pickup day is Thursday, April 21st.
- ✓ Darlene noted she will be out of the office on Thursday April 14th and Monday April 18th.

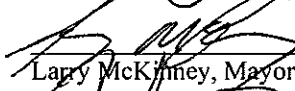
MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS


ADJOURNMENT

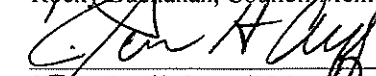
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Larry McKinney at 7:17 PM.

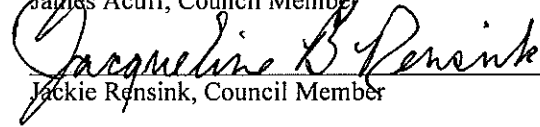

Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


Darla Harding, Mayor


Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


James Acuff, Council Member


Jackie Rensink, Council Member

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, April 11th, 2022**

A public hearing of the Town Council was held on April 11th, 2022. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Jackie Rensink, Rocky Buchanan and Larry McKinney. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Shelley Buchanan, Michael Wood, Libby Phillips, Rick McDonald, and Crystal Young. Others attended, including Russell Lankford, Chad Donahoo, and Tommy Winchester.

PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Darla Harding opened a public hearing to solicit and receive public comment regarding a proposed Amendment to Ordinance Establishing and Defining Primary Fire Limits Within the Town of Spruce Pine. The Council is considering the following amendment:

1. The regulation entitled "Exterior Walls" shall be revised to say as follows:


Exterior Walls: All exterior walls shall be of masonry construction and shall meet the minimum requirements of the North Carolina Commercial Building Code in place at the time of the construction or renovation. Exterior walls fronting upon or facing a street or sidewalk shall be of brick or stone construction or shall have a brick or stone façade.

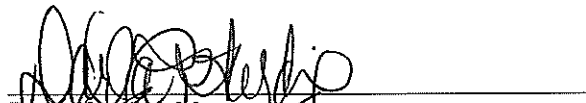
This notice given in pursuant to the provisions of N.C. General Statute 160D-601.

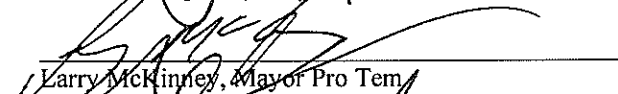
Said Amendment Ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

ADJOURNMENT

With no additional public comments, Mayor Darla Harding closed the public hearing.


Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


Darla Harding, Mayor


Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


James Acuff, Council Member


Jackie Rensink, Council Member