

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, April 25, 2022**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on April 25th, 2022. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Larry McKinney, Rocky Buchanan, and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Crystal Young, and Shelley Buchanan. Others attended including Leland Riddle, Cassandra Horton and Halley Burleson.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Darla Harding 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

Larry McKinney moved to approve the agenda as presented. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 11th, 2022. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor. Jackie Rensink moved to approve the minutes from the Public Hearing held on April 11th, 2022. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENTS - NONE

ACTION AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to provide water and sewer at outside rates with no annexation to Bruce Dean Grindstaff at 86 Biggerstaff Ln Spruce Pine, NC. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Jackie Rensink moved to provide water at outside rates with no annexation to Mitchell County SafePlace at 7968 Hwy 19 E, Spruce Pine, NC. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

James Acuff moved to provide water at outside rates with no annexation to Zachary Hughes at 813 Deer Park Lake Rd, Spruce Pine, NC. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Darlene presented an amended Water and Sewer Fund Capital Improvements Plan. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to adopt the Water and Sewer Capital Improvements Plan. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ✓ Darlene recognized Mr. Leland Riddle. He presented to the Council his Solicitation Permit Application for May 6th, 2022 at the intersection of 19E and Hwy 226. The funds collected will go the Shriners Children's Hospital. Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the Solicitation Permit request for Mr. Riddle. James seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ✓ Darlene advised the Council that Mayor Harding, Jackie Rensink, Shelley Buchanan and herself attended a joint meeting with the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners and the Town of Bakersville. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss permissible uses of the funds granted to the county to combat opioid addiction. She noted there will be future meetings to discuss further.
- ✓ She joined Gina Phillips on a zoom meeting this week to discuss a Halloween event that will involve the use of Riverside Park.
- ✓ The Town is currently taking bids through May 6th for the tennis court and shelter renovations at Brad Ragan Park.
- ✓ Stan Cook is working on a new restroom floor plan for Riverside Park.
- ✓ Chief Summerlin's trash pickup efforts were very successful this past week. He had approximately 25 volunteers including Darlene and Crystal. Trash was picked up in town along Highland Avenue and other side streets. The next cleanup day is to be held on May 7th.

- ✓ Darlene has been very busy gathering information for infrastructure grant applications. The deadline for these applications is May 2nd.
- ✓ We are very excited and expecting a good turn out for the Fire on the Mountain Blacksmith Festival to be held this weekend.
- ✓ Darlene met with Bob Barr, with the Northwest Regional Housing Authority, to discuss a workforce housing project he is working on in the area.
- ✓ Shelley Buchanan advised the Council of some available positions on the Planning and Zoning Board as well as the Zoning Board of Adjustment and asked for their recommendations to fill these spots.
- ✓ Shelley shared the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board concerning a rezoning request by James and Dori Settles. The Council advised to move ahead with setting a Public Hearing date.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Finance Officer Crystal Young held a discussion of the proposed 2022-2023 general fund and water/ sewer budget, noting that the county has not yet set their property values for the year. She hopes the tax rate will be finalized by the end of May.

She asked the Council to discuss their thoughts on funding for the Pine Line fixed route. Jackie Rensink noted she thought the \$28,000 request should be a fair split between the Town and the county. Rocky Buchanan does not believe the Town should fund the entire amount because it does not only benefit the city limits of Spruce Pine. It was the consensus of the Council to attend the next Board of Commissioners meeting and discuss a 40/60 split of this funding.

Crystal recommended cutting several of the new vehicles from the department requests. The Council agreed that the Police Department should wait to purchase anymore new vehicles. They believe only one vehicle purchase is needful and they will do some more research on which department is in the immediate need.

She advised the Council she increased the budget for supplies and materials in every department due to the rising costs of most goods.

The Council discussed the additional funds requested by the library. Rocky commented that he believes the amount distributed to the Spruce Pine Public Library, Chamber of Commerce and TRAC should be the same.

Crystal hopes to be able to put \$173,000 back into the water and sewer fund balance.

MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS/COMMENTS


- Mayor Harding requested Darlene look into having a sign made for the boardroom that reads In God We Trust.
- Darlene asked that we purchase Phillip Hise a thank you gift for all of his help recently. Darla agreed that was an excellent idea.
- Darla advised the Council that Buck Stove has been sold, but will continue to operate as it has been.


ADJOURNMENT

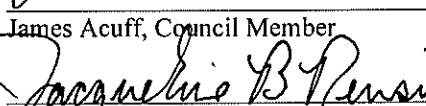
There being no further business, Rocky Buchanan moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 PM.

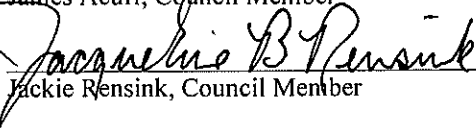

Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


Darla Harding, Mayor


Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


James Acuff, Council Member


Jackie Rensink, Council Member