

**Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, September 27, 2022**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on September 27, 2022. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members James Acuff, Rocky Buchanan, Larry McKinney and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Shelley Buchanan, and Crystal Young. Others attended, including Chad Donnahoo, Cynthia Sciacca, Dori Settles, Phillip Hise, and Lynn Holler.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Darla Harding called the regular meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Rocky Buchanan gave the invocation. Jackie Rensink 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 of the regular meeting of September 12th, 2022. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Finance officer Crystal Young gave the Council an update on the first quarter financials. She began with an update on property taxes. Property tax bills were mailed mid-August with 17.8% collected at this point. She made the Council aware of an issue with several property owners receiving an incorrect bill due to Mitchell County Tax office sending a file that had last years business personal tax values and incorrect late listings. Crystal has worked hard to rectify this situation and explain to taxpayers what has happened and that everything now has been corrected. She mentioned that sales tax is up 5% which should result in \$40,000 in revenue. The water and sewer fund is steadily being built back up. As the Federal Reserve raises interest rates Crystal will be moving funds into the appropriate accounts to earn the most interest in the spirit of being the best stewards of taxpayer money. Auditors will be back this week to finish up. All has gone well with the audit thus far. Crystal requested the Council give her permission to gather information from Public Works and the Police Department on their anticipated need for new vehicles next year. She explained that vehicles are extremely hard to get and many other municipalities are putting purchase orders in now for next year. It was the consensus of the Council for Crystal to move forward with these purchase orders. Darlene noted that Mike Wood, Crystal, and herself had finally found a truck suitable for the Parks and Rec Department. The truck was purchased from Friendship Nissan of Boone. It is a 2018 model with less than 50,000 miles, and was purchased for \$29,500.00.

Crystal updated the Council on the splash pad and playground equipment. It will have to be shipped separately and is set to be delivered in October. She hopes to go ahead with installation so it will be ready for use by Memorial Day 2023.

ACTION AGENDA

- Darlene presented a Memorandum of Understanding to the Council which outlines the agreement between the Town of Spruce Pine and the Mainstreet Program. This is a five-year agreement that is reviewed annually. At this time Mayor Harding and Jackie Rensink recused themselves from the meeting during this item of business due to them being members of the Mainstreet Board. Larry McKinney made a motion to adopt the MOU. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all allowable votes in favor. Said MOU is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Darlene presented a Resolution for the Highway 226 Waterline Replacement Project grant application. The new budget estimate for this project came in over 1 million dollars above the original cost. The Town has secured funds in the amount of \$775,000 from Golden Leaf. This resolution will allow the Town to apply for last minute ARPA funding and other grants to finish paying for the project. Jackie Rensink made a motion to adopt the Resolution. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Said resolution is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.
- Darlene presented a change to the Resolution for stormwater planning and assessment grant application. This resolution passed at the last Council meeting but there was a wording error concerning the use of Town Manager instead of Darlene's name. Larry McKinney made a motion to adopt the change to the Resolution for stormwater planning and assessment. James Acuff seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

- Crystal presented several tax releases she had received from the county. James Acuff made a motion to release 2022 property taxes Ronald and Pamela Glenn in the amount of \$544.41. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. James Acuff made a motion to release 2022 property taxes for Gary McKinney in the amount of \$130.56. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Larry McKinney made a motion to release 2021 and 2022 property taxes for Kenneth Riddle in the amount of \$107.72. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Larry McKinney made a motion to release 2022 property taxes for Joyce Carpenter in the amount of \$67.67. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- Darlene asked the Council to award the Riverside Park Restroom Project bid to Tri County Co. Inc. This bid came in at \$99,949.00, which will leave money in the budget for unexpected expenses. The bids ranged from \$79,500 to \$476,000. Jackie Rensink made a motion to accept the bid from Tri County Company Inc. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The project will begin in late October and take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

PUBLIC COMMENT- none

TOWN MANAGER

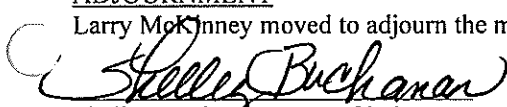
- ✓ Darlene updated the Council on the progress of the Land Use Plan. She noted the Land Use Plan Planning Committee and a representative from HCCOG had their first meeting a couple weeks ago with another scheduled October 18th.
- ✓ Libby and Darlene will be attending their seventh class in Boone for the Rural Community Capacity Building grant. She also noted they are working on a \$50,000 grant application for Streetscape.
- ✓ Darlene mentioned that Russell is doing a wonderful job as Public Works Director.
- ✓ Larry asked about paving Walnut Avenue. Darlene said she has the accepted proposal from Moretz Paving but is aware there has been supply issues with some asphalt plants being down. James Acuff asked that Bailey St be added to the paving list.

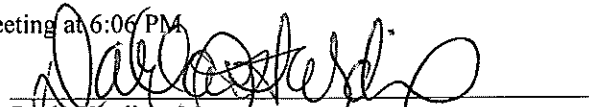
MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS


- ✓ Larry thanked Darlene for all she does as town manager.

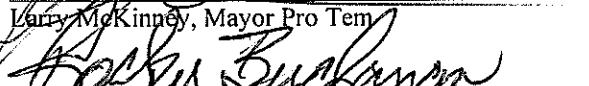
ADJOURNMENT

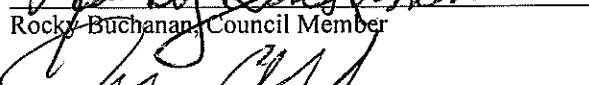
Larry McKinney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 PM

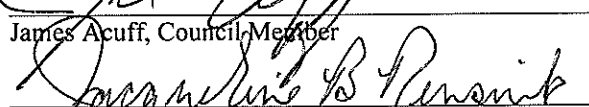

 Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


 Darla Harding, Mayor


 Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


 Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


 James Acuff, Council Member


 Jackie Rensink, Council Member