

Minutes
Spruce Pine Town Council
Monday, October 10th, 2022

A meeting of the Town Council was held on October 10, 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, and Russell Lankford. Others attended, including Chad Donnahoo, and Cynthia Sciacca.

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. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

James Acuff moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of September 26, 2022. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried with all present in favor

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Water & Sewer

- Russell Lankford presented his monthly report for the Public Works department. Said report is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

Parks & Rec

- Michael Wood presented his Parks and Recreation Director's report for the month of September, which is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. He also shared some information about the Hilloween Festival happening at Riverside Park the end of October.

Finance

- Finance Officer Crystal Young presented the financials through the end of September. She also noted the first Powell Bill allocation has been received and it was \$10,000 more than budgeted. The current amount of property taxes collected is \$274,723.93, which is 19.5%. Crystal also mentioned the Town is projected to be able to put \$200,000 - \$300,000 back into water and sewer fund balance this year. She updated the Council on current interest rates on deposit accounts and noted she moved \$1,000,000 into the Town trust account, and may move more to get the best return. The splash pad equipment will be delivered next week. She has been in contact with Mitchell County concerning two properties inside city limits they are foreclosing on due to delinquent taxes.

Main Street

- Libby Phillips was unable to attend.

Police Department

- Chief Bill Summerlin was unable to attend.

ACTION AGENDA

Larry McKinney moved to release 2022 property taxes for Carol Plumridge in the amount of \$258.29 due to a late application for the Elderly Exclusion. Rocky Buchannan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Rocky Buchanan moved to release 2022 business personal taxes in the amount of \$85.23 for Total Renal Care of NC LLC due to incorrect valuation of refrigeration equipment.

Finance Officer Crystal Young led a discussion about vehicle needs for budget year 2023/24 in the Public Works Department and the Police Department. She explained due to Covid and supply chain issues it is imperative that a purchase order be issued now in order to get new vehicles on the state contract for the coming year. She explained how the order portals work for each vehicle. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to issue a purchase order for one new vehicle for the Public Works Department. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Larry McKinney made a motion to issue a purchase order for one new police vehicle. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Michael Wood and Crystal Young showed a power point presentation on a new wheelchair swing for Brad Ragan Park. Darlene noted that after a fire at the playground at Riverside Park in 2016 the Spruce Pine VFD had donated \$3,000 to be earmarked for a wheelchair swing. These funds were never used. The cost of the swing is \$8,700. Darlene asked that the Council consider funding the rest of the cost above the \$3,000 donated by the fire department and issue a purchase order to be able to have the swing by next year. Larry McKinney moved to issue a purchase order for the wheelchair swing. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Shelley Buchanan presented a cemetery request from Teresa Tehandon. She is asking to be able to purchase one cemetery plot and have a columbarium installed that will hold 15-18 cremation remains. This would require a crane to set the above ground structure. Due to the current Town of Spruce Pine Memorial Cemetery policy limiting each plot to two cremation remains, it was the consensus of the council to deny this request.

Darlene Butler presented the Council with a resolution authorizing her to submit a grant application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Transformation Grant Fund, Rural Engagement and Investment Program in order to provide assistance to benefit the Spruce Pine Downtown Streetscape Plan. This grant application is due by November 1st. Larry McKinney made a motion to adopt the said resolution. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Darlene Butler presented a revision to Ordinance 15-3 of the Town code to update the sale of malt beverages, unfortified and fortified wine, and mixed beverages. This revision changes the time establishments are allowed to sell malt beverages on Sundays from 1:00 pm to 10:00 am. Said ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. James Acuff made a motion to adopt this revision. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Larry McKinney moved to provide water with no annexation to Seth Miller at 25 Stokes Calloway Lane. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Darlene presented a Special Event Application from Sherry Sautner with Spruce Pine Southern Shows for an Alien Festival to be held in June of 2023. It was her recommendation the Council approve this application contingent upon Ms. Sautner providing an adequate site plan. Rocky Buchanan made a motion to approve the Special Event Application with the stipulation that site plan be submitted and approved by the town manager. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cynthia Sciacca addressed the Council in preparation to move back to Florida for the winter months. She thanked the Council for allowing her to attend the meetings and helping her to be more educated about her Town. She went on to say that although the harsh winter here forces her and her spouse back to Florida, she considers Spruce Pine her home and she will be back next Spring. She thanked each council member for having Spruce Pine's best interest at heart and complimented the town manager. She noted she will continue to encourage the negative people on social media to come to the Council meetings and become more educated. Mayor Harding and Jackie Rensink thanked Ms. Sciacca for her positive comments.

TOWN MANAGER

- ✓ Darlene Butler updated the Council on the Land Use Plan. Drew with the HCCOG created a Land Use Plan Survey, which is available on our website, social media, and in hard copy form. He has already received 100 surveys back.
- ✓ As of September 30th, two water grant applications and two waste water grant applications have been revised and resubmitted, along with a new submission for additional funds to finish the Hwy 226 waterline replacement project and a stormwater plan grant.
- ✓ SCIF Grant reporting has been completed for the third quarter.
- ✓ Darlene commended Crystal Young and Michael Wood for all of their hard work on the park projects. She also noted that Russell Lankford is doing a great job as Public Works Director.

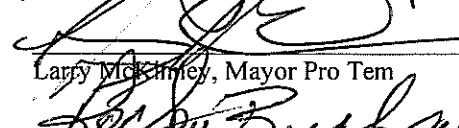
MAYOR/COUNCIL REQUESTS / COMMENTS-none

ADJOURNMENT

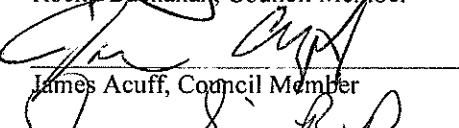
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned by motion of Larry McKinney at 7:13 PM.

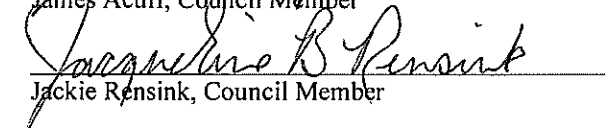

Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk


Darla Harding, Mayor


Larry McKinney, Mayor Pro Tem


Rocky Buchanan, Council Member


James Acuff, Council Member


Jackie Rensink, Council Member

Town of Spruce Pine Monthly Report

September 2022 Public Works Department

Works Order Summary for September:

Unlock and turn on meter 16

Turn off and lock meter 25

Brush 32

Locates 40

New Meters 15

Puck 8

White Goods 3

Cardboard 4 (weekly)

Water Leaks 3

Sewer Leaks 1

Taps 1 water, 1 sewer and 2 water/sewer

Misc work summary:

Darlene and I met with Withers-Ravenel on the new water line from Town Hall to McDonalds. We got static pressure, residual pressure, and gpm flows on the hydrants at Deer Park and the shopping centers. This was for two water grant applications. We swept the entire shop building out and washed down twice. We washed all the work trucks and totally serviced two of them. One truck got new tires. There were four places we cleaned the sewer lines with our jetter. We scraped one gravel road with our backhoe. We patched 15 potholes on several

different streets. KRG cleaned the storm drain line out that ran from the road through the Montessori School property. I have asked for another quote on our shop roof replacement since the other one doubled. It should be here any day. We put a new road sign up and replaced two bad ones. We dug and closed one grave this month. I am getting quotes on chopper pumps, key fob automatic gate, camera and fencing for the septic dumping ordinance change. This will be at the Carters Ridge lift station. We lifted two sewer pumps for Veolia with our equipment. We rebuilt the steps at Riverside Park that leads up to the swinging bridge. We looked at and measured two different routes to run a two-inch water line to the new splash pad at Riverside. We need to dig around one more valve to actually see the line to know the best and most cost-efficient way to run it. We also took a wall down at Brad Ragan Park near the basketball ball court to fix a drainage issue there soon. We mowed the streets in 4 different locations. Some of the new meters were related to us shoring up issues with rereads on meters. We also had 13 bad radio reads which are on back order. We have had to cut the water off twice for the contractors who are working on the Henredon water station rehab.

Safety:

Two employees got their second hep B shot

I have looked at several different options for safety training. The NCLM risk lady is coming to train us on traffic safety and making us certified flaggers on November 15.

Water-Sewer License

Travis Phillips and I are going to C distribution school in December. We can take the test next year as soon as the offer it.

Employment

We have one new employee who started on the 3rd. Another new employee will start on the 24th. That should put us at full staff. Thanks for the support you have given us. We appreciate it.

Russell Lankford

Public Works Director



Parks and Recreation Department

Office (828)765-3012

Cell (828) 385-2179

Town of Spruce Pine Board Meeting

October 10, 2022

General Park Maintenance

- Mowing, weed eating, and weed removal in both parks
- Morning and Night check list completed each day
- Trash pick-up in town

Brad Ragan Park

- Contractor has started the painting of the shelters
- Started on trimming the mulch beds
- Started on leaves

Riverside Park

- Started on trimming the mulch beds
- Cut down a section of the river bank from the walking bridge to the small shelters for easier access to the river

Shelter Reservations

- September Reservations 18
- The shelters are only rented out on Fridays, Saturday and Sunday
- The shelters are now on a first come first serve basis till May of 2023

Pool

- Pumps are shut off to the pool

Town

- Side walks in town were blown off
- Due to the time of year with leaves falling will be more frequent cleaning of the side walks till all the leaves are gone

Other Business

- Picked up trash along the road from the following places:
 - Laurel creek court to Harris Street from Harris Street Greenwood Intersection
 - Tappan street to Riverside Drive from Riverside Drive to Spring Street
 - Intersection of Fortner and Roan to the clock/metal tree
 - Intersection of Summit Ave and Spring Street to Riverside Drive

- BBQ festival was moved back a week due to the weather
- Helped with the BBQ festival
- Quartz has started on the Giving Gardens herb bench and planters
- Been in contact with the Hilloween festival coordinators a few times to make sure everything is still on tract. That festival is going to take place on October 29 at riverside park
- New park truck is now in service
- Met with contractor on new entrance sign design for Brad Ragan park

Town of Spruce Pine Financials
Ending September 30th,
2022
1st Quarter
FY 2022-2023



2022-2023 Budget Figures				
		<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>Y-T-D September 30th,</u>	
		<u>Budget</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Percent</u>
General Fund Revenue				
Levied Taxes and Penalties		\$1,419,500	\$314,215	22.1%
Local Sales Tax		\$670,000	\$198,735	29.7%
Franchise Taxes		\$285,000	\$67,855	23.8%
Powell Bill		\$80,000	\$44,227	55.3%
Interest Earned		\$1,000	\$4,406	440.6%
Recreation Park Revenue		\$26,000	\$10,673	41.0%
Revolving Loan Repayments		\$7,500	\$1,675	22.3%
Misc Income		\$80,015	\$5,225	6.5%
Grants		\$23,962	\$0	0.0%
Fund Balance Appropriated		\$0	\$0	
General Fund Revenue		\$2,592,977	\$647,011	25.0%
General Fund Expenditures				
Governing Body		\$22,682	\$4,895	21.6%
Total Administration & Finance		\$258,520	\$88,997	34.4%
Cost of Elections		\$0	\$0	0.0%
Tax Collections Fees		\$5,000	\$1,272	25.4%
Economics		\$158,728	\$20,752	13.1%
Total Public Building & Facilities		\$79,630	\$33,917	42.6%
Fire Department		\$149,000	\$0	0.0%
Building Inspections		\$28,500	\$0	0.0%
Police Department		\$987,773	\$293,246	29.7%
Public Works		\$198,860	\$68,645	34.5%
Powell Bill		\$95,295	\$5,596	5.9%
Sanitation		\$83,909	\$14,310	17.1%
Parks & Recreation		\$343,242	\$99,375	29.0%
Library		\$111,577	\$26,460	23.7%
Trac Grant		\$5,000	\$0	0.0%
Cemetery		\$19,850	\$24,217	122.0%
Loan Disbursements		\$0	\$0	0.0%
Covid Relief Fund		\$0	\$0	
Contingency		\$45,411		
Total General Fund Expenditures		\$2,592,977	\$681,682	26.3%
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>		\$0	-\$34,671	

Town of Spruce Pine Financials
Ending September 30th,
2022
1st Quarter
FY 2022-2023



	<u>2022-2023</u>	<u>Y-T-D September 30th,</u>	
	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>Percent</u>
<u>2022-2023 Budget Figures</u>			
<u>Water & Sewer Fund</u>			
Charges for Water	\$1,584,000	\$416,667	26%
Charges for Sewer	\$1,044,000	\$292,337	28%
Water & Sewer Taps	\$3,000	\$4,650	155%
Water & Sewer Interest	\$250	\$0	0%
Misc Revenues	\$30,500	\$20,744	68%
Retained Earnings Appropriated	\$0	\$0	0%
Water & Sewer Revenue	\$2,661,750	\$734,397	28%
<u>Water & Sewer Expenditures</u>			
Water & Sewer Debt	\$94,383	\$3,399	4%
Water & Sewer Administration	\$1,264,918	\$252,362	20%
Water Expense	\$641,983	\$170,832	27%
Sewer Expense	\$532,377	\$161,875	30%
Contingency	\$128,089		
Water & Sewer Expenditures	\$2,661,750	\$588,468	22%
<i>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over Expenditures</i>	\$0	\$145,930	

Town of Spruce Pine
 Analysis of Current Year Tax Levy
 09/30/22
 excluding vehicle taxes

	Property Valuation	Town-wide Rate	Amount of Levy
Original levy:			
Real property	58,626,070	\$0.46	
Building property	260,098,900		
Personal property	54,373,712		
Public service companies	17,849,971		
Penalties			
Exemptions	84,627,243		
	<u>306,321,410</u>		<u>1,409,078.49</u>
Discoveries:			
Current year taxes	129,650		596.39
<i>Rounding</i>			<i>0.43</i>
Prior year taxes	<u>9,163,815</u>		<u>46,735.46</u>
	<u>9,293,465</u>		<u>47,332.28</u>
Abatements			
Min Bill	28,021		128.90
Releases (Curr)	144,152		
Releases (Prior)	96,363		
Total property valuation	<u><u>315,442,702</u></u>		
Net levy			<u><u>1,409,546.41</u></u>
Uncollected taxes at			<u>1,134,822.48</u>
Current year's taxes collected			<u><u>274,723.93</u></u>
Current levy collection percentage			<u><u>19.5%</u></u>

Town of Spruce Pine Resolution
Rural Transformation Grant Fund
Rural Engagement & Investment Program
Spruce Pine Downtown Streetscape Plan

WHEREAS, The Town of Spruce Pine Town Council had indicated its desire to assist in development efforts within the Town of Spruce Pine; and,

WHEREAS, the Town Council fully supports the proposed project by the Spruce Pine Downtown Streetscape Plan which will result in a streetscape master plan for downtown Spruce Pine: and,

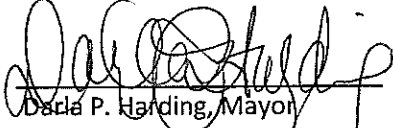
WHEREAS, the Town Council wishes to pursue a formal application for the Rural Transformation Grant in the amount of \$49,999 from the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Transformation Grant Fund, Rural Engagement & Investment Program; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Spruce Pine Town Council:

That the Town of Spruce Pine is authorized to submit a formal application to the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Rural Transformation Grant Fund, Rural Engagement & Investment Program in order to provide assistance to benefit Spruce Pine Downtown Streetscape Plan.

That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted this the tenth day of October, 2022 in Spruce Pine, North Carolina.


Darla P. Harding, Mayor

ATTEST:


Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

(Seal)

ORDINANCE REVISING § 15-3 OF THE CODE TO UPDATE THE SALE OF MALT BEVERAGES, UNFORTIFIED AND FORTIFIED WINE AND MIXED BEVERAGES

NOW COMES the Town of Spruce Pine (“Town”), at a duly called meeting of its Council with a quorum established, and hereby adopts this *Ordinance Revising § 15-3 of the Code to Update the Sale of Malt Beverages, Unfortified and Fortified Wine and Mixed Beverages*.

WHEREAS, in accordance with N.C.G.S. §§ 18B-1004 and 160A-205.3, the Town desires to amend § 15-3 of the Town Code to update the ordinance with reference to the hours of sale of malt beverages, unfortified and fortified wine and mixed beverages and authorize the sale of the same on Sundays.

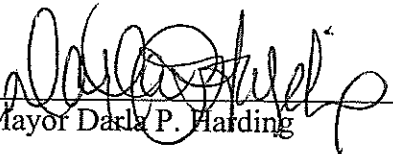
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN that, pursuant to § 1-8(b) of the Code, § 15-3 of the Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 15-3. Sale of Malt Beverages, Unfortified and Fortified Wine and Mixed Beverages

- (a) Hours. It shall be unlawful to sell malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine, or mixed beverages between the hours of 2:00 A.M. and 7:00 A.M., or to consume any of those alcoholic beverages between the hours of 2:30 A.M. and 7:00 A.M., in any place that has been issued a permit under N.C.G.S. § 18B-1001 or N.C.G.S. §18B-1105.
- (b) Sunday Hours. The sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine and mixed beverages shall be allowed at any premises licensed pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 18B-1001 on Sunday mornings beginning at 10:00 a.m.
- (c) This section does not prohibit at any time the wholesale delivery and sale of unfortified wine, fortified wine, and malt beverages to retailers issued permits pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 18B-1001 or G.S. 18B-1002(a)(2) or (5).
- (d) This ordinance shall become effective upon its adoption.

Legal Citations: N.C.G.S. §§ 18B-1004; 160A-205.3
Adopted: August 17, 1975
Revised: October 10, 2022

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to N.C.G.S. § 160A-75, having been submitted to a vote on the date of its introduction, this Ordinance was approved by a two-thirds majority of the actual membership of the Town Council on this the 10th day of October 2022.



Mayor Darla P. Harding

Attest 

Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

September 13 ,2022

Live Oak gastropub
69 Locust Street
Spruce Pine NC 28777
404-861-7640
liveoakgastropub@gmail.com

Town Hall
11050 S. 226 HWY
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-3000
manager@sprucepine-nc.gov
Darlene Butler

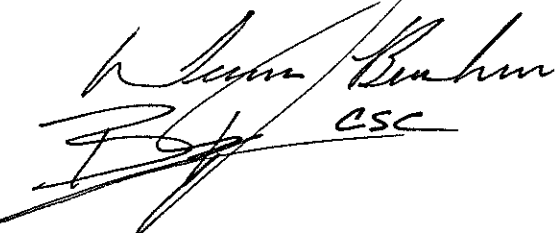
Dear Mrs. Butler

We at Live Oak gastropub would like to request the Town of Spruce Pine NC,
adopt an ordinance allowing for the sale of malt beverages,unfortified wine,and mixed
beverages beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday morning.

Kind Regards,

Owners

Deanna Buchanan & Brian Myler



Deanna Buchanan
B Myler
CSC

September 13 ,2022

Hef's Restaurant
89 Locust Street
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-2245

Town Hall
11050 S. 226 HWY
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-3000
manager@sprucepine-nc.gov
Darlene Butler

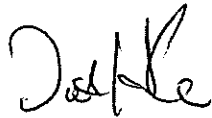
Dear Mrs. Butler,

As the owner / manager of Hef's Restaurant I would like to request the Town of Spruce Pine NC, adopt an ordinance allowing for the sale of malt beverages,unfortified wine,and mixed beverages beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday morning.

Kind Regards,

Owner / Manager

Jason Hefner



September 13 ,2022

Rentals of Spruce Pine
60 Fortner Drive
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-777-6172
rentalsofsprucepine@gmail.com

Town Hall
11050 S. 226 HWY
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-3000
manager@sprucepine-nc.gov
Darlene Butler

Dear Mrs. Butler

We at Rentals of Spruce Pine , Owners of 69 Locust Street Spruce Pine NC.
where Live Oak gastropub is located. Would like to request the Town of Spruce Pine
NC, adopt an ordinance allowing for the sale of malt beverages,unfortified wine,and
mixed beverages beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday morning.

Kind Regards,

Owners

Danny Barcelona & Amy O'Connor

September 14, 2022

David and Stephanie Whitson

31 Cross Street

Spruce Pine NC 28777

828-385-9500

Town Hall

11050 S. 226 Hwy

Spruce Pine NC 28777

828-765-3000

Dear Mrs. Butler

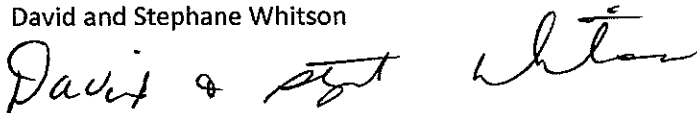
We owners of 219 Locust Street which will be the location of Chill Restaurant.

Would like to request the Town of Spruce Pine NC, adopt an ordinance allowing for the sale of malt beverages, unfortified wine, and mixed beverages beginning at 10 am Sunday morning.

Respectfully

Owners

David and Stephanie Whitson

Handwritten signature of David and Stephanie Whitson in cursive script.

September 13 ,2022

El Ranchero
203 Locust Street
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-6222

Town Hall
11050 S. 226 HWY
Spruce Pine NC 28777
828-765-3000
manager@sprucepine-nc.gov
Darlene Butler

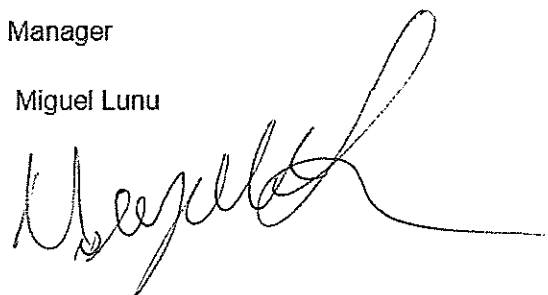
Dear Mrs. Butler,

As the manager of El Ranchero I would like to request the Town of Spruce Pine NC, adopt an ordinance allowing for the sale of malt beverages,unfortified wine,and mixed beverages beginning at 10 a.m. Sunday morning.

Kind Regards,

Manager

Miguel Lunu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Miguel Lunu', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

