

**Minutes  
Spruce Pine Town Council  
Monday, March 13, 2023**

A meeting of the Town Council was held on March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Present were Mayor Darla Harding and Council Members Rocky Buchanan, James Acuff, Larry McKinney, and Jackie Rensink. Staff in attendance included Darlene Butler, Crystal Young, and Shelley Buchanan. Others attended, including Chad Donnahoo, 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. James Acuff led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Larry McKinney moved to approve the agenda with the addition of a tax release for Anchors Away Café and an ordinance to authorize the Mitchell County Department of Inspections to provide certain permitting, inspection, and zoning services for the Town of Spruce Pine. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Jackie Rensink moved to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2023. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENT-** none

**ACTION AGENDA**

- o James Acuff made a motion provide sewer at outside rates with no annexation to Ovet Ramirez Villagomez at 230 Stafford Rd. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- o Darlene presented a request from Mitchell County Schools for water at outside rates with no annexation for the new Mitchell Middle School currently under construction. She explained this would be contingent upon an encroachment agreement between the Town and Mitchell County Schools. The Town will agree to place the tap closer to the school building once MCS pays to run 800 feet of line, which the Town will assume maintenance responsibility, and makes the necessary \$15,000 upgrade to the pumpstation on HWY 226. Rocky Buchanan moved to approve the water service at outside rates with no annexation be completed with contingencies and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement between the two parties. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- o Jackie Rensink made a motion to adopt the Ordinance to revise Article IV of the Town's zoning ordinances. Said ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- o Larry McKinney moved to advertise the 2022 delinquent property tax accounts in the Mitchell News Journal the last Friday in April. Letters will go out this week informing taxpayers of this advertisement. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- o Jackie Rensink moved to release 2022 business personal property taxes in the amount of \$28.13 for Anchors Away Café. The new owners have been billed for these taxes. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- o Larry McKinney moved to adopt the Ordinance to Authorize the Mitchell County Department of Inspections to Provide Certain Permitting, Inspection, and Zoning Services for the Town of Spruce Pine. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Said ordinance is incorporated by reference and attached to these minutes.

**Town Manager**

- ❖ Darlene reminded the Council the second meeting in March will be to meet with all department heads and begin budget discussion for next year. It was the consensus of the Council to move the time of this meeting to 5:00 pm.
- ❖ Darlene discussed a water tap the Council had voted to approve back in November of 2022. The property owners have since had an issue with getting the water line run, as it would have to cross over a neighbor's property. They

have contacted the DOT and they have agreed to allow them to run this line along their right of away contingent upon the Town of Spruce Pine taking over responsibility and maintenance of said water line. Russell has made it clear that it would have to meet the Town's specifications and be a 1-inch line. James Acuff moved to enter into an agreement to take over this 1 inch water line and to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an encroachment agreement with the DOT. Rocky Buchanan seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

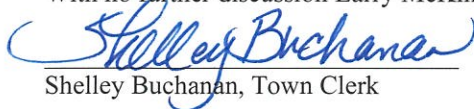
- ❖ She presented a quote from MCCI for repair of a sidewalk and replacement of a retaining wall near the Live Oak Gastropub. The quote is for \$5,000 and he should be able to do the work this Spring. James Acuff made a motion to move forward with this quote from Matt Miller. Jackie Rensink seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ❖ Next Darlene shared a quote from Affordable Tree Care to take down a total of 26 trees at Riverside Park that interfere with the new restrooms and the splash pad that will be built this Spring. The quote is for \$6,800. Jackie Rensink made a motion to move forward with the quote presented. Larry McKinney seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ❖ She presented a second quote from Affordable Tree Care to take down 31 trees at Riverside Park that are on both the Town's property and Mayland Community College's property. Dr. John Boyd has agreed to half the cost of this work with the Town. The quote is for \$6,500.00. The Town's cost would be \$3,250. Crystal mentioned the funds to cover this work can be taken from the extra interest earned this year. Larry McKinney made a motion to move forward with this work and to pay half of the cost of the tree removal. James Acuff seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.
- ❖ Crystal mentioned that Shelley Buchanan had applied for and was awarded a \$3,200 scholarship from Local Government Federal Credit Union, which covers the cost of the Clerks Institute she is attending at Chapel Hill. Darlene thanked Shelley for taking the time to apply for scholarships and save the Town money.
- ❖ Tommy Winchester brought by the necessary documents to moved forward in the condemnation process of the property on S. Dale Street. Darlene advised that Tommy will hold a hearing at the Town Hall for the property owner to be heard on April 10<sup>th</sup>.
- ❖ Darlene asked David Whitson to make some changes to his proposal for the EV charging stations in town. She would like a pay option to be added so that the charging stations won't be monopolized by a few users at the Town's expense.
- ❖ Brad Ragan Park is still closed for the time being. The mulch is down on the larger playground and they are working on some drainage issues at the smaller playground. The park will reopen as soon as that work is complete. She thanked the Quartz Corp for their volunteer work and use of their equipment to unload and spread the mulch at the park. She also mentioned how hard the Public Works Department has worked on the park grant projects on top of their regular duties.
- ❖ She shared an invitation from Mayland Community College to attend the Earth to Sky Park Night in April.

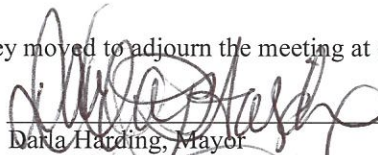
MAYOR/ COUNCIL COMMENTS/REQUESTS-

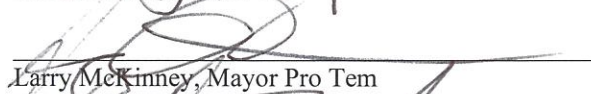
- Darla asked Chad about the local bill they had previously discussed that would make it a requirement that the Town Manager have a spot on the ABC Board. He responded that he has reached out to the ABC Commission with no response back but he is still working on it. Chad suggested the Council put together a resolution and give to our representatives in Raleigh.

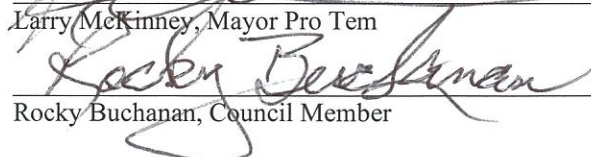
ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion Larry McKinney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:22 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

**ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MITCHELL COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
INSPECTIONS TO PROVIDE CERTAIN PERMITTING, INSPECTION AND ZONING  
SERVICES FOR THE TOWN OF SPRUCE PINE**

**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 to Authorize the Mitchell County Department of Inspections to Provide Certain Permitting, Inspection and Zoning Services for the Town of Spruce Pine*.

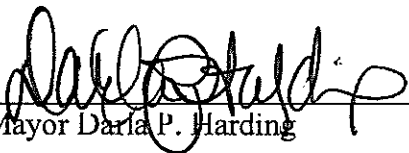
**WHEREAS**, the Town has historically had an agreement with Mitchell County (“County”) that the County’s Department of Inspections (“Department”) would provide certain permitting, inspections and zoning services for the Town for an agreed upon fee to be paid by the Town to the County;

**WHEREAS**, the Town’s most recent written agreement with the County expired on June 30, 2022; however, the County and Town have continued the provision of that agreement with the County’s Department providing the specified services contained therein and the Town paying to the County the agreed upon fee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town desires to enter into the Interlocal Governmental Agreement (“Agreement”), incorporated herein and attached hereto as Exhibit A, and said Agreement be effective retroactive to July 1, 2022.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN** that, subject to the County’s approval, the Agreement is approved and shall be effective as of July 1, 2022 and the Mayor is hereby authorized to execute the Agreement on the Town’s behalf.

This 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Darla P. Harding

Attest   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Shelley Buchanan, Town Clerk

**Release Notice**

Taxpayer name: Anchors Away Cafe  
 Address: 282 Sourwood Dr Spruce Pine  
 Account #: 555781980  
 Parcel #: -  
 Reason for Release or Refund: Business sold 5-2021

Date: 2-10-23

Year	Bill #	Real Value	Personal Value	County Tax	Fire Tax	Total to be Released	Penalty Adjustment	Cost of Advertising Adjustment	Interest Adjustment
2022	001646	-	5385	30.16	-	30.16	3.02		1.16

Amount to be Refunded: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Authorized by: [Signature]  
 Affirmed by: [Signature]  
 Chairman Mitchell County Board of Commissioners  
 Clerk to the Mitchell County Board of Commissioners

Town of S.P.  
 Tax: 24.17  
 Penalty: 2.48  
 Int: 0.98  
27.63



Mitchell County Tax Office  
26 Crimson Laurel Circle, Suite 5  
Bakersville, NC 28705



**Office of the Tax  
Administrator**  
828-537-1407

02/10/2023

Anchors Away Family Café Corp  
38 Dewberry Ln  
Burnsville NC 28714

Dear Taxpayer,

The 2022 Business Personal Property tax went to the previous owner. We will release the bill and Discover it to you in July, so in July you will receive 2 bills (one for 2022 & one for 2023).

I have enclosed a 2023 Business Personal Listing Form, this form needs to be completed every year and returned before the end of January. If you ever need an extension, you can email or mail me a request and I will grant you one until April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please call me or email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,  
Stacy Buchanan  
Stacy.Buchanan@MitchellCounty.org  
Mitchell Co. Tax Office  
828-537-1405