

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes - October 19, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Weaverville was held at 7:00 P.M., on October 19, 2015, in the Council Chambers at 30 South Main Street.

Present: Mayor Dottie Sherrill, Vice Mayor John Penley.
Council Members Walt Currie, Doug Jackson, and Gene Knoefel.
Attorney Morgan Bryant, Town Manager Selena Coffey.
Staff: Terry Malone, Greg Stephens, Courtney Banks, Tony Laughter and Shelby Shields.

Absent: Council Member Dearth.

Visitors: Ellen Knoefel, Carol Currie, Tina Jenkins, Rhonda McKenna, Jill Britton, Cindy Wright, Doug Theroux, Andrew Nagle, Aileen Fleming, Jamie Penley, Patrick Fitzsimmons, Steve Rotundo, Robert Chason, Ron Sussex, Roney Hilliard, Dale Pennell, Vic Workman, Wyatt Edsel and several representatives of the A.S.P.C.A.

Mayor Sherrill called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

The motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to approve the Agenda with the addition of item **6. c.** Arbor Day Proclamation, and seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes:

The motion to approve the September 21, 2015 minutes was made by Council Member Currie, seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

Recognition of Outgoing Council Members Walt Currie and Gene Knoefel:

Mayor Sherrill asked Council Members Currie and Knoefel to join her at the podium.

This is the last Council meeting for Council Member Currie and Knoefel who have chosen not to seek re-election. Mr. Knoefel has served eight (8) years on the Council, prior to that as member of the Planning and Zoning Board. He has also been a faithful representative to the Land of Sky, and just recently was honored with the Land of Sky Service Award, having served on that Board since 2007, two of those years on the Executive Board. He will continue his service as a member of the Senior Tar Heel Legislature and the Buncombe County Nursing Home Advisory Committee.

Mayor Sherrill stated that over eight years ago, she and the former Town Attorney Carl Loftin took Council Member Currie to lunch and persuaded him to run for Town Council. Since that time he has been a loyal and dedicated member of Council, serving the Town well with his knowledge and expertise in legal matters. He has lived up to her expectations as a Council Member.

Mr. Currie stated that he too, will not be going away but has been asked by the League of Municipalities Board has ask him to serve on a committee to study Health Insurance Trust, but after that may consider slowing down.

Mayor Sherrill presented each Council Members Currie and Knoefel with a gift.

Employee Recognition:

A. Town Manager Selena Coffey commended Police Chief Stephens, Officer Andy Mace, and Kim Buckner for their hard work on the Cops for Kids Bike Run that raised over \$6,000 for the benefit of the kids in the community.

B. Ms. Coffey recognized Courtney Banks, Finance Officer, for receiving two scholarships for furthering her education in financing. It is a benefit in two ways to the Town, it provides for staff development, and it saves money.

C. Arbor Day Proclamation:

Mayor Sherrill read the Proclamation proclaiming November 7, 2015 as Arbor Day in the Town of Weaverville. There will be no official program, the Conservation Board will use the day as a work day in the Nature Park. A tree will be planted in the memory of Maura Lohman, Council Member Dearth's wife who passed away recently.

The motion was made to adopt the Arbor Day Proclamation by Council Member Knoefel, seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

Old Business:

There was no Old Business.

New Business:

A. ASPCA Water Service Extension Request:

Wyatt Edsel, Altamont Environmental in Asheville, requested water service for American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that will build a facility on 12.5 acres of land at 50 Murphy Hill Road, the former location of the Blue Ridge Concrete business. The water service would be a benefit, particularly the fire line protection for the large facility.

Kristin Collins, Senior Director of Behavioral Rehabilitation for ASPCA, gave an overview of the program that they provide to rehabilitate animals with behavioral problems to become adoptable, particularly from puppy mills, abuse, etc. In 2013 a pilot program was started in New Jersey for this purpose, it was very successful, with 89 to 90% of the animals being rehabilitated. They wanted to expand the program, and choose this area to do so. At this point of competition, the facility will contain 20,000 sq. ft, and will employ 30 people, with opportunities for volunteers. It is a national program, when the facility is complete, they will be bring in other

professionals and students to learn about the program, and expand it into other parts of the country.

The Council members asked several questions on the location, distance from the main water line, cost to the Town for the water extension, and the possibility of noise from barking dogs. The engineer shared a rendering of the proposed facility and layout of the property that has been designed to address the possible noise from barking.

Mr. Laughter explained that the plans have been reviewed and he doesn't see any problem with providing the water service. There would be no expense to the Town to provide service to the ASPCA facility. The developers would build the water line extension to Town and State specifications, and deed back to the Town.

Town Manager Coffey asked Ms. Collin what the number of dogs would be at any given time in their program. Ms. Collins responded that the facility is being built for approximately 82 animals. Ms. Coffey stated that in her background as a Humane Society Director, the ASPCA is a very good organization, and felt that it is great that it is being brought into the community.

The motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to approve the request from the water commitment to the ASPCA facility at 50 Murphy Hill Road. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson, and unanimously approved.

B. North Asheville Baptist Church Waterline Extension Request:

Dale Pennell, Civil Engineer for North Asheville Baptist Church, requested water service for the construction of the new 999 seat Church Sanctuary to be built on one hundred acres at the end of Griffee Road. Mr. Pennell reviewed the water usage including fire line usage requested.

Vic Workman, General Contractor, who is assisting in the planning and building of the Sanctuary, stated that plans are to start the construction in April 2016, with occupancy by June 2017. After they occupy the first building, they anticipate construction on a gym for the youth, and utilizing the other property for ministry services. All the property will be used for ministry purposes, they have no plans to sell off any of the land.

Council Member Jackson asked if they plan to use all of the one hundred acres. Mr. Pennell stated that they would not since a good portion along Flat Creek is in the flood zone, and the back side is too steep to build on. He estimates that about two-thirds (2/3) of the one hundred acres is usable.

Council Member Currie asked questions, and was concerned that other people could obtain water as the result of the extension. Mr. Laughter stated that a water commitment is granted only to the applicant that is requesting the water service.

After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Currie, seconded by Council Member Jackson, to grant the request for a water commitment to North Asheville Baptist Church to supply their Church ministries.

C. Mayor Subdivision Final Request:

The Planning and Zoning Board has recommended the approval of a major subdivision for Mike Schoeppler/John Rewak, located on Longstreet Court in Hamburg Estates. The lot contains 33.67 acres, of which 2.25 acres has been subdivided from the remaining two lots of 15.71 acres each and are exempt from the Subdivision Ordinance since there are more than ten (10) acres. The motion was made to approve the major subdivision for Mike Schoeppler/John Rewak by Council Member Knoefel, seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

D. Budget Amendment - Water Resources Fund:

Town Manager Coffey stated that a fire box for one of the Water Treatment plant heat system is cracked. Mr. Laughter feels that a replacement is the best action, since the unit is eighteen plus (18+) years old. He has requested \$7,000 for the replacement of the unit. After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to adopt Budget Amendment 3 to purchase a gas heat system for the Water Treatment Plant. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved. (Amendment attached)

Manager's Report:

Ms. Coffey commended the Police Department for their work on the Cops for Kids Run that raised over \$6,000, with 108 sponsors and approximately 50 riders although the weather was less than ideal.

Agenda Preparation: the agenda packets will go out to Council by Wednesday prior to the next Council meeting that month.

Ms. Coffey stated that Focus newsletter deadline is the 3rd Monday, same date as Council meetings, for publication in the following month's newsletter.

The Conservation Board has cleared the area to the Nature Park, behind the Town Hall, and the Public Works Department has done an excellent job on building a fence in that area.

Ms. Coffey reported that the Town has purchased the two (2) mowers, as approved by Town Council at last month's meeting and recommended by OSHA. The Town is in the final phases of follow-up and reporting with the OSHA inspections from their September visits.

Ms. Coffey took the opportunity to thank the outgoing Councilmen, Walt Currie and Gene Knoefel, for their service to the Town, and more personally, to thank them for giving her the opportunity to serve as the Town Manager.

Department Reports:

The Department Reports are available on the table.

There being no further business, the motion was made by Council Member Knoefel, seconded by Council Member Currie, and unanimously approved to adjourn the meeting.

Shelby Shields,