

TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE

TOWN COUNCIL Minutes - July 20, 2015

The regular meeting of the Town Council for the Town of Weaverville was held on July 20, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. 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 Rebecca Reinhardt, Interim Town Manager Mike Morgan.
Staff: Terry Malone, Tony Laughter, Greg Stephens, Courtney Banks, and
Shelby Shields.

Absent: Council Member Doug Dearth.

Mayor Sherrill took a moment to acknowledge, and extend the deepest sorrow and concern to Council Member Dearth, in the recent death of his wife, Maura Lohman, who was tragically killed in an automobile accident, in Kentucky last week. Mr. Dearth is in Ohio with his family. She concluded, on behalf of the Town Council, Administrative staff and employees, our deepest sympathy, thoughts and concerns are expressed, through a minute of silence.

Call to Order:

Mayor Sherrill called the meeting to order.

Approval of Agenda:

The motion to approve the agenda, as presented, was made by Council Member Currie, seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

Public Comment:

Robert Sheppard, 120 North Main Street - Expressed his concern with seeing more homeless people and bums on Main Street, and felt that the Council should “nip it in the bud” before it becomes a problem, by doing an ordinance prohibiting vagrancy.

Old Business:

a. Concealed Weapon Ordinance:

Mr. Morgan explained that the Ordinance has been amended in Sec. 16-1. Handgun regulations, to spell out the exact facilities that prohibit concealed handguns on the property. Handguns are prohibited in Town owned, managed or controlled buildings, and the appurtenant premises to such building. Concealed handguns are permitted in the parking areas of buildings and recreational facilities provided that, they are secured within an enclosed compartment of a locked motor vehicle. Concealed weapons are allowed at Lake Louise Park and the Main Street Nature Park. The motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to adopt the Ordinance Amending Section 16-1 of the Town of Weaverville Code of Ordinance Regarding Handgun Regulations. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

New Business:

a. Land of Sky Recognition:

Council Member Knoefel, Land of Sky Representative from the Town, presented Mayor Sherrill and Mr. Morgan with a Certificate of Membership that certifies that the Town of Weaverville is a member government of the Land of Sky Regional Council, a multi-county, local government planning and development organization. Mayor Sherrill thanked Council Member Knoefel for his faithful attendance and interest of the Town. Mr. Knoefel was recently appointed to the Land of Sky Executive Board.

b. Request to Close Portion of Unopened Britton Street:

A letter has been received from Kevin Kopp, Dogwood Properties, requesting that the unopened portion of Brittain Street that borders his East property line be permanently closed, as shown on the enclosed Boundary Survey for Grove Park Properties, LLC, now known as Dogwood Properties. The street is approximately 34 feet wide, and 179 feet in length from Coleman Street south to the back of the street. After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to adopt the Resolution of Intent to Permanently Close A Portion of Brittain Street, and set a public hearing for August 17, 2015 at 6:45 P.M. in the Council Chambers at 30 South Main Street. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

c. Request from Conservation Board for Tree List Review:

The Conservation Board has requested that Sec. 36-157 - List of recommended species, (approved tree and shrub list) in the Code of Ordinance be updated. The motion was made by Council Member Jackson to refer the Tree List to the Planning and Zoning Board for their review and recommendation, seconded by Council Member Currie, and unanimously approved.

d. Deletion of Chapter 6. Business. Article II. Privilege Licenses in the Code of Ordinances:

Mr. Morgan explained that the General Assembly, in G.S. 160-211, created a way for the Town to collect Privilege License. In their last Session, the General Assembly repealed that authority to collect the privilege license fees, as of July 1, 2015. To the Town of Weaverville, this is approximately a \$120,000 loss of revenue, or \$.02 on the tax rate. Chapter 6, Article II - Privilege Licenses are still in the Town's Code of Ordinances, and will need to be deleted, since the Town no longer has the ability to collect those fees. After a brief discussion, the motion was made by Council Member Currie to delete Chapter 6, Article II of the Town Code of Ordinances. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson, and unanimously approved.

e. Tax Release:

The motion was made by Council Member Knoefel to release the tax levy of \$78.77 for NC RSA #4 Inc., DBA US Cellular, on personal property valued at \$18,755. The reason for release is the taxes are being assessed by the State. The motion was seconded by Vice Mayor Penley, and unanimously approved.

Manager's Report:

Mr. Morgan stated that normally, the Town has requests that OSHA come in and do an inspection. Recently, OSHA paid a surprise to the Fire and Police Departments. Both departments did well. There were only a few minor infractions, which were fixed immediately, resulting in no fines to the Town.

Other:

Mayor Sherrill called attention to the newly painted Community Room and entrance hall.

The Town Council will meet in Closed Session on July 27, 2015 at 6:00 PM, in the Town Hall to discuss the Town Manager Search. The Council Workshop is scheduled for August 6, 2015 at 4:00 PM in the Council Chambers, at 30 South Main Street.

Vice Mayor Penley felt that the Council should consider Robert Shepherd's request to move forward on an ordinance to address bums in Town. After a discussion, Vice Mayor moved that Mr. Morgan and the Police Chief move forward on working on an ordinance. The motion was seconded by Council Member Jackson, and approved by a vote of 4 - 0.

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

Shelby Shields, Town Clerk