

MINUTES

**TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

**PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2016**

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met for two public hearings prior to its regularly scheduled monthly meeting at 5:45pm on Monday, May 16, 2016 at Town Hall Council Chambers at 30 South Main Street, Weaverville.

Those present were: Mayor Dottie Sherrill, Vice Mayor John Penley, Councilman Doug Jackson, Councilman Doug Dearth, Councilman Patrick Fitzsimmons, Town Attorney Rebecca Reinhardt, Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Clerk Shelby Shields, Police Chief Greg Stephens, Public Works Director Tony Laughter, Deputy Fire Chief Ted Williams and Planning & Code Enforcement Officer James Eller. Absent was Councilman Andrew Nagle.

Public Hearing on R-12 Zoning District

Mayor Sherrill asked for a motion to open the public hearing for public input on the R-12 Zoning District.

Councilman Dearth made the motion to open the public hearing regarding the R-12 Zoning District. Councilman Jackson seconded. All voted in favor.

Planning & Code Enforcement Officer gave a brief overview of the proposed R-12 Zoning District, which had previously been returned to the Planning & Zoning Board. Eller stated that the Planning & Zoning Board had agreed to forward the R-12 Zoning District language to Town Council for the public hearing and approval.

Mayor Sherrill asked for public input. There was no public input at that time. There was none. Having no additional public input for the public hearing, the Mayor asked for a motion to close the meeting.

Councilman Jackson made the motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Doug Dearth seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Public Hearing on FY 2016-2017 Budget

Mayor Sherrill asked for a motion to open the public hearing to hear public input on the R-12 Zoning District.

Vice Mayor Penley made the motion to go into public hearing regarding the FY 2016-2017 Budget. Councilman Fitzsimmons seconded. All voted in favor.

Town Manager Coffey provided a brief summary on the recommended budget. Councilman Jackson requested that Coffey recap significant issues impacting the budget. Coffey spoke about the following: the Town's loss of the privilege use license tax, loss of Arvato personal property tax revenue, loss of ability to annex involuntarily, and the State's redistribution of local sales tax, which has had a negative impact on the Town's sales tax revenue.

Mayor Sherrill noted that Council does not want to cut Town services and also noted that, unfortunately, the employees would not be receiving a cost of living increase this year at 1.4% as was originally proposed in order to maintain some of their benefits, such as health insurance. Councilman Doug Jackson echoed the Mayor's comments, stating that health insurance was a major factor in balancing the budget due to the rising cost of providing insurance to the Town's employees.

Mayor Sherrill then invited the public to comment. The following people spoke during the public hearing on the budget:

1. Donna Bollinger: Bollinger spoke on behalf of several others and therefore was provided ten minutes to speak. Bollinger noted that the last budget workshop was very informative and commended Town Manager Coffey, Public Works Tony Laughter and Finance Officer Courtney Banks. She further indicated that she was happy that the Town had a three-year streets improvement plan to repair every street in Town. Coffey clarified that the three-year streets improvement plan only covers those roads and streets that have deteriorated in accordance with the NCDOT scoring system as in need of repair. Bollinger expressed her disagreement with the Town spending \$18,000 for a second gateway sign at Weaver Boulevard.
2. Leslie Osborne: Osborne commended Town Council on their hard work on the budget. She further stated the people should understand that Council, several years ago, reduced the tax rate, but that increasing the tax rate this year makes sense due to the various issues with revenue losses. Osborne thanked Council for their hard work.
3. Bernie Conrad: Conrad asked that Town Council reconsider increasing the tax rate. He further noted local government shouldn't depend on the loss of Arvato and other revenues and suggested the Town have an alternate plan, which would account for loss of revenue, similar to businesses. Conrad noted that, if making the decision to move his company, A-B Emblem, to Weaverville now, with the increasing tax rates, he would not move here. Conrad concluded that the Town should "live within its means".
4. Marsha Andreola and Sherri McLendon: Andreola and McLendon were speaking on behalf of five residents living on West Street and were given ten minutes to speak. They noted that all residents on West Street, except for one, are opposed to paving the currently graveled street. McLendon noted that West Street follows the side of her yard, which intersects with North Street. She spoke about the negative impact of road bed and set-backs if West Street is paved and further noted safety issues with having people use the street as a pass-through and speeding if it was paved. McLendon noted the need to do further studies, including topographical studies, traffic studies and a study of what is necessary to protect a slave burial area off of West Street if it was paved. Andreola then spoke again and added that 36 trees would need to be removed if West Street was paved. She further noted that paving the street would be wasteful to serve only one family who wants the street paved. Andreola urged Council to reject the paving of West Street now or in the future.
5. Barbara Gentry: Gentry noted that Public Works Director Tony Laughter sent her a list of streets to be paved last year and asked why the order of street improvements had been changed.

Town Manager Coffey responded that roads deteriorate at varying rates dependent on amount of travel, weather, plowing, etc. She further noted that the full amount for year one of the three-year streets improvement plan was not included in the budget, stating that only approximately \$265,000 was included and almost \$400,000 was requested for year one of the plan.

There were questions from the audience regarding the time for the public hearing for the R-12 zoning district. Town Manager Coffey recommended that, due to inconsistencies in the Clerk's minutes and in the time that the hearings were publicly noticed, anyone wishing to speak on the R-12 issue be permitted to do so at that time or after a five minute break prior. Town Council agreed to proceed, allowing anyone to speak regarding the R-12 zoning district or the budget.

6. Zach Kemp: Kemp noted that the public hearing on the R-12 zoning district had been advertised to begin at 6:45pm in the Town's newsletter and website. He noted he is concerned about the R-12 zoning district and how it might impact the budget in the future, particularly placing a higher demand on the Town's fire, police and public works services.

Mayor Sherrill asked for further public input. There was none. Having no additional public input, the Mayor asked for a motion to close the hearing.

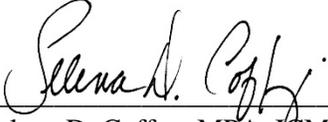
Councilman Fitzsimmons made the motion to close the public hearing. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

[Regular Town Council meeting followed after a brief break.]



Dottie Sherrill, Mayor

ATTEST:



Selena D. Coffey, MPA, ICMA-CM
Town Manager / Deputy Town Clerk