

MINUTES

TOWN OF WEAVERVILLE
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, April 17, 2017

The Town Council for the Town of Weaverville met for its regular monthly meeting on Monday, April 17, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers within Weaverville Town Hall at 30 South Main Street, Weaverville, North Carolina.

Council members present were: Mayor Dottie Sherrill, Vice Mayor/Councilman John Penley, Councilman Doug Jackson, Councilman Doug Dearth, Councilman Andrew Nagle and Councilman Patrick Fitzsimmons.

Staff present were: Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson, Town Manager Selena Coffey, Town Clerk Derek Hunninghake, Police Chief Greg Stephens, Fire Chief Ted Williams, and Finance Officer Tonya Dozier. Public Works Director Tony Laughter and Town Planner James Eller were absent.

1. Call to Order

Mayor Sherrill called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval/Adjustments to the Agenda

Councilman Penley made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Councilman Jackson seconded and all voted in favor of the motion.

3. Approval of Minutes

Councilman Dearth made the motion to approve the minutes from February 6, 2017 Special Called Meeting/ Budget Workshop Minutes and March 20, 2017 Town Council Minutes as presented. Councilman Fitzsimmons seconded the motion and all voted in favor on the approval of the minutes.

4. Employee Recognition

Town Manager Selena Coffey recognized the Weaverville Fire Department C-Shift for their courageous efforts, hard work and wonderful services they provide to the Town of Weaverville. Members on the C-Shift are Battalion Chief Ray Blackwell, Captain Steve Sims, Fire Engineer Josh Reeves, and Firefighters Scottie Sherman and Zachary Smith.

Betty Hensley expressed her gratitude and appreciation for their quick actions and emergency procedures taken in helping save her life on March 3 at the McDonalds on Weaver Boulevard.

5. General Public Comment

Public comments were received as follows:

Gene Knoefel spoke as a representative for the Buncombe County Delegate to North Carolina Tar heels Senior Legislator. A program has been implemented by The Land of Sky Regional Council called Dementia Friendly WNC. It is a nationally funded program and creates a committee to assist communities in creating spaces in the environment to maximize independence and wellbeing of people with dementia. There is a national contest for grants that will allow Land of Sky to receive additional funding and he asked the residents of Weaverville to vote.

Donna Bollinger spoke about the gateway sign on Weaver Boulevard and posed questions directly to Town Manager Coffey. She asked for the second gateway sign cost and the cost for the survey. She then asked who paid for the survey cost. She further inquired about the bus turn around needed on Alexander Street and when it would be completed. Manager Coffey responded that she would provide the answers to Ms. Bollinger's questions after the meeting.

Chris Tomsic, a representative for Connect Reems Creek along with Jason Gililand asked Town Council to support the grant match amount in the budget for the Reems Creek Greenway as was recommended by Manager Coffey within her FY2018 proposed budget. He mentioned that they have submitted a grant request to Connect Buncombe, another non-profit organization, to help their organization with advocacy. Also, Blue Mountain Pizza is hosting Connect Reems Creeks non-profit for the month of April and matching dollar for dollar up to \$500 for donations. On April 20th, Blue Mountain Pizza will donate 10% of their sales to Connect Reems Creeks non-profit and the Art Safari will donate 10% of its proceeds as well.

6. Consent Agenda

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following matters:

A.) Earth Day Proclamation

Approval of proclamation requested

B.) Arbor Day Proclamation

Approval of proclamation requested

C.) Public Service Week Proclamation

Approval of proclamation requested

D.) Monthly Tax Report

Approval of report requested

E.) Quarterly Departmental Reports

Provided for informational purposes

F.) Ordinance Referencing Road Closures for July 4th Events

Approval of this ordinance requested.

Councilman Dearth moved for the approval of the consent agenda. Councilman Fitzsimmons seconded the motion and all voted unanimously to approve all action requested in the consent agenda.

7. Discussion and Action Items

A.) Town Manager's Proposed Budget

Town Manager Selena Coffey presented her budget message and, through a PowerPoint presentation, provided an overview of the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017-18. After the Town Manager completed her presentation of the proposed budget, the Mayor asked for any comments from Town Council. Councilman Nagle went on record stating that, although he understands that the Town Manager has published the revenue neutral tax rate using the State Treasurers' formula as required, he disagrees with the state's formula and subsequent impact on the tax rate used to develop the budget. He states that compared to the Oxford English Dictionary this is not revenue neutral, it is just more money into the Town. Lastly, Councilman Nagle mentioned that he would like Capital purchases to come out

of the General Fund balance instead of the operating budget. Councilman Jackson also commented that he was very interested in working to maintain the lowest tax rate possible with the understanding that there are departmental needs that must be considered going into the budget process.

Following additional general comments from Town Council, the Town Manager reminded the Mayor, Council and the public in attendance that a public hearing on the budget will be held in Council Chambers at Town Hall on May 15, 2017 at 6 p.m.

No Action Taken.

Both the budget message and a printout of the PowerPoint are attached to and incorporated into these minutes.

B.) Eller Cove Watershed Conservation Easement

Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson provided an update on the transfer of the Eller Cove Watershed Conservation Easement. Since the time when Council approved the Conservation Easement in January and the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy got all their paperwork finalized, the North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust fund changed their base documents so they need the Town to approve the easement in the new format. The Town Attorney also asked for approval so that officials can sign the closing documents authorizing the completion of this transfer. After this transfer, the Town of Weaverville will receive at least \$525,000, but hopefully the original amount of \$550,000.

Councilman Dearth made a motion to approve the Eller Cove Watershed Conservation Easement and to authorize the Mayor, Town Manager, Town Clerk and Town Attorney to execute any and all documents necessary to transfer the Conservation Easement. Councilman Jackson seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

C.) Request for Waterline Extension: 44 Central Avenue

Town Attorney Jennifer Jackson presented the proposal for acceptance of a Waterline Extension for property located at 44 Central Avenue for seven residential lots. The developer is in the process of getting zoning approvals and is asking for a commitment letter and allocation approval.

Councilman Jackson made a motion to accept the Waterline Extension to 44 Central Avenue. Councilman Penley seconded the motion. The motion passed by a unanimous vote of Council.

8. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Selena Coffey presented her Manager's report to Council including that the gateway sign has been completed on Weaver Boulevard and another Budget Workshop is coming up on May 9 at 5:30 pm at the Fire Department.

9. Adjournment

Councilman Penley made the motion to adjourn; Councilman Fitzsimmons seconded and all voted to adjourn the Council's meeting at 6:42 p.m.

DEREK K. HUNINGHAKE, Town Clerk