

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
August 9, 2016

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, N.C. Present were Mayor J.B. Lawrence, Mayor Pro-tem Albert Yount and Council Members Jim Steele, Sue Sweeting, Doug Matheson and Ray Pickett. Others in attendance were Town Manager Scott Fogleman, Town Attorney Allen Moseley, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Finance Officer Nicole Norman, Public Works and Utilities Director Mike Wilcox, Building Inspector John Warren, Police Chief Tony Jones, Assistant Parks & Recreation Director Autumn Goheen and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Lawrence called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the minutes for meetings held on July 12th and July 19th 2016 as written. The motion was seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS AND REPORTS

Highway 321 Valley Boulevard Construction Update

Kipp Turner of Maymead Construction was unable to attend the meeting. Planning Director Kevin Rothrock read the Highway 321 construction updated provided via email by Mr. Turner as follows:

- Drilling continues for the anchors below Cliff Dwellers as preparation for sculpture work. The architectural sculpting subcontractor is scheduled to be here around the middle of the month.
- Grading and concrete work has been hampered over the past week to week and half but wall work has continued where possible.
- Retaining wall work continues along the golf course as well as on a couple of walls in the curves below Green Park Inn.
- The concrete facing on the wall at the golf course is anticipated to begin within the next week.
- Old signal poles at Sunset Drive have been removed and the new signal activated. The underground work continues for the signals at Tanger and North Main as weather allows.

- Drainage installation has continued on the mountain portion as well as placement of stone base for paving north of Rocky Road.
- Work on North Main along the Chetola Lake is expected to resume as soon as weather allows. Work will include the removal of the old curb & gutter and sidewalk on the South Bound side coming into Town followed by the installation of new curb and sidewalk.
- Mowing was scheduled again for late last week but has been postponed due to weather. It will be rescheduled soon.
- Due to ASU move in day, all lane closures will be removed by 12 noon on Friday and no lane closures are scheduled through Monday morning.

Middle Fork Watershed Plan Summary

George Santucci from the New River Conservancy presented an executive summary update of the Middle Fork watershed plan. The Town contributed \$10,000 to the \$90,000 project. **Middle Fork Watershed Plan Summary – Attachment A**

CONSENT AGENDA

Town Manager Fogleman presented the following consent agenda items:

1. Art in the Park Date Change in 2017 From May 13 to May 20

The originally planned May 13, 2017 Art in the Park date occurs on Mother's Day weekend and it is also the same weekend as ASU graduation. Upon further review of the impact on these events and Art in the Park attendance along with traffic impacts in the High Country, the Chamber has asked to move the May Art in the Park event date to May 20, 2017.

A motion was made by Council Member Pickett to approve all Consent Agenda items as presented, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

1. Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Vehicle and Capital Equipment Financing Package Bid Award

This item was originally on the Consent Agenda and was moved to the Discussion Agenda earlier in the meeting.

Vehicles and capital equipment approved as part of the current year 2016-2017 budget as funded with installment purchase financing have been packaged together in order to solicit proposals from nine area banks. Five banks submitted proposals and staff recommends the financing bid be awarded to BB&T Governmental Finance with a 1.37% annual interest rate for a four-year term. The four-year term lowers the annual debt service payment amount required and is consistent with previous borrowing terms.

Council Member Pickett made a motion to award the bid to BB&T Governmental Finance for a four-year term, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Yount. Unanimously approved. **BB&T Government Finance Resolution Approving Financing Terms – Attachment B**

2. Sunny Rock Restaurant Roof Change

Planning Director Kevin Rothrock gave a staff report reflecting that Mr. Bert Myers is requesting authorization to replace the cedar shake roof on Sunny Rock restaurant with a light brown metal standing seam roof. Last year Council approved a change of the roofing material on the Foggy Rock Restaurant to a charcoal gray metal standing seam. According to the Land Use Ordinance, if the change of the roofing material is to metal standing seam for more than 25% of the roof, Council approval is required.

Council Member Steele asked what the original reasoning was behind the requirement for Council's approval for changing 25% or more of a roof. Mr. Rothrock stated it was because there were no metal standing seam roofs in Town and it was a way to govern their introduction on commercial buildings.

Council Member Sweeting asked if the Town had a color chart for roofs. Mr. Rothrock explained there is a color chart for paint for the Town, but it is not specific to siding, roofing etc. Mr. Rothrock further explained the color Mr. Myers is requesting does meet the approved color chart.

Council Member Steele asked if this was something Council felt necessary to approve each time. Council Member Matheson suggested the process be added to the Retreat Agenda. Council Member Sweeting agreed and added she would like to have color options to discuss. Mayor Pro-Tem Yount stated his vote was for the advice and consent of Council.

Council Member Sweeting made a motion to approve the Sunny Rock Restaurant roof change request, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

3. New River Falls Fence Permit Application

Mr. Rothrock gave a staff report stating New River Falls Property Owners Association is requesting approval of a fence permit that would authorize the construction of a fence between their property and Valley Blvd. The proposed fence is designed to provide privacy and sound deflection from highway noise. The proposed fence would replace an eight-foot high fence that was removed due to the Hwy. 321 widening project and would be between 8 feet and 12 feet high. There are two (2) proposed finishes for the outside of the fence. One design would match the simulated stone formliners on the 321 project, and the other design would be similar to the lap-sided finish of the previous wood fence.

Mr. Rothrock stated since the proposed fence is taller than 6 feet and taller than the previous fence, the Land Use Code recommends review and approval of Council.

Mr. Jerry Miller, POA president of New River Falls, presented a power point presentation and summary of the fence proposal for Council's review and consideration.

Mayor Pro-tem Yount asked for clarification of what the POA is asking. Mr. Miller stated the POA would like permission to make the fence 12 feet high instead of 6 feet high and for the allowance of simulated wood fence on the outside.

Council Member Steele stated his only concern with permitting the increase is the impact on the future with the ordinance and others wanting to do the same. Council Member Sweeting stated she felt that this was a hardship because the POA lost their buffer due to the widening project.

Mayor Pro-Tem Yount asked if the height exception is legal. Mr. Rothrock stated he felt it was and Town Attorney Allen Moseley concurred.

Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve the New River Falls Fence Permit replacement and for it to include the wood panel on the outside as requested, seconded by Council Member Sweeting. Unanimously approved. **New River Falls Fence Request Power Point – Attachment C**

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:55 p.m. Mayor Pro-Tem Yount made a motion to enter into Closed Session pursuant to NCGS 143.31.11 (a) (6), seconded by Council Member Steele. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:45 p. m. Council reentered their regular meeting and with no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned.

MAYOR _____
J.B. Lawrence

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

Middle Fork Watershed Plan Summary – Attachment A

BB&T Government Finance Resolution Approving Financing Terms – Attachment B

New River Falls Fence Request Power Point – Attachment C

