

**MINUTES**  
**BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Regular Meeting January 12, 2010**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Rick Owen called the Regular Meeting of the Beech Mountain Town Council to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Other Council Members present were Alan Holcombe, Cindy Keller, Rick Miller and Paul Piquet. Also present were Town Manager Randy Feierabend, Assistant Code Enforcement Officer/Planner Jes Scott, Water/Wastewater Supervisor Robert Heaton, and Assistant Police Chief Jerry Turbyfill. There were a number of interested parties in the audience.

**II. Invocation** – Charlie Burlison opened the meeting with a prayer.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance** – All present joined in the Pledged of Allegiance to the flag.

**IV. Adoption of Agenda** – Mayor Owen added item ‘c’ under Old Business, TDA web site. The Agenda was accepted as amended.

**V. Approval of the Minutes December 8, 2009 Regular Meeting** – Councilperson Holcombe moved to approve the minutes of December 8, 2009 as presented. Councilman Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**VI. Public Comment** – Pete Chamberlin expressed his appreciation for the good job from the Public Works Department on snowplowing.

**VII. New Business** –

- a. Presentation to outgoing Council Members and Board of Adjustment Chair** – Mayor Owen presented plaques in appreciation for services to the Town Council to Gil Adams 1999 -2009 and Pete Chamberlin 2001-2009, Randy Corn was not present. Paul Piquet 2007-2009 was presented a plaque for his services as Board of Adjustment Chairman.
- b. Garbage Bin Ordinance Modification – Set Public Hearing** – Mr. Scott gave an overview of the garbage bin modifications recommended by the Planning Board. Councilperson Piquet indicated that it would be a burden on the home owners to have the garbage bins required to be up to code by the July deadline. Mr. Scott noted that the July deadline was for new construction and for those that had to be substantially repaired as well as the underground containers. Councilperson Piquet moved to set the Public Hearing for the Garbage Bin Ordinance Modifications for February 9, 2010. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- c. Council Furniture – Discuss replacement of Council tables and audience chairs** – Mr. Feierabend passed out copies of various table designs for consideration. Councilperson Piquet and Councilperson Miller indicated that they would prefer the

wood tone. Councilperson Keller felt the tax payers would not appreciate the purchase of new tables and chairs at this time. Councilperson Miller responded that the cost of the tables would be covered by his discretionary funds. After a brief discussion, Mayor Owen requested that Mr. Feierabend research more options for review at the February 9, 2010 meeting.

- d. *Volunteer Committees – Discussion of Volunteer Stipend*** – Councilperson Holcombe requested that committee members receive \$15 to \$25 per month for the meetings they attend. Councilperson Keller noted that the Tree Board contributed their meeting money to a landscaping account. Mr. Feierabend indicated the Planning Board had suggested that their money be contributed to Town Beautification. After a brief discussion, Councilperson Holcombe moved to approve paying \$15 per month for meeting attendance, regardless of the number of meetings attended; no money would be paid if no meetings were attended, payment would be on a quarterly basis. Councilperson Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- e. *Minor Wording Changes to Zoning Ordinance – Building height and vacant lot amendments – Set Public Hearing*** – Mr. Scott indicated that the Planning Board felt clarification was needed for vacant lots referring to neatly trimmed vegetation. The section 1108, new 154.138 would read “Vacant lots and open spaces shall be maintained. The accumulation of junk, unsightly debris and the storage of building materials shall be prohibited.” Mr. Scott further explained that section 154.006 would be revised to “Building Height. The distance measured from the highest point of the original natural grade of the land on which the building sits to the highest point of the structure.” Councilperson Piquet felt the vacant lots should be in a natural and safe condition and also asked that ‘maintained’ be defined. Mayor Owen noted that further discussion would be scheduled at the meeting on February 9, 2010. Councilperson Holcombe moved to set a Public Hearing on the Zoning Ordinance revisions for February 9, 2010. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### **VIII. *Old Business* –**

- a. *Committee Appointment*** – Councilperson Piquet moved to reappoint Andy Porter to the Planning Board. Councilperson Holcombe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Councilperson Piquet moved to reappoint Bill Hagna and Russ Rieman to the Board of Adjustment. Councilperson Holcombe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Council agreed to wait for recommendations for the Alternate to the Board of Adjustment. Councilperson Miller moved to reappoint Fred Barth and Calder Smoot to the Tourism Development Authority and to nominate Gil Adams as the non business member. Councilperson Holcombe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Councilperson Piquet moved to reappoint Gil Adams, Nancy Owen and Calder Smoot to the Recreation Committee and to appoint Danielle Usedom. Councilperson Keller indicated that she would like to see John Troxler in the position. From the audience, James True asked if he could nominate himself and Pete Chamberlin indicated that he would like to see Charlie Giarrusso. After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously. Mayor Owen thanked Mr. True for his interest, indicating that his name would be kept for further consideration.

- b. Update on placing packet on web** – Mr. Feierabend reported that Eric Jelinski was updating the Town’s web site. Mayor Owen reported that the agenda was currently being put on the web site. Councilperson Piquet indicated that he thought the department reports should be on the web site. Councilperson Holcombe was in favor of having both the agenda and overview sheets on the web site. Councilperson Keller asked for the police reports to be on the web site, noting that the report could be consolidated. Mayor Owen asked that Mr. Feierabend discuss the consolidation of police information with Chief Hefner. Councilperson Holcombe moved to place the agenda and overview sheets on the web site. Councilperson Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- c. Tourism Development Web Site** – TDA Councilperson Charlie Burlson addressed the Council requesting funds to help the Authority with the update of the portal page with the intent of having a site similar to the Boone area. web site. Mr. Burlson indicated that the Authority had a quote of less than \$10,000 for the update and that the Authority did plan to sell ads on the site. Councilperson Piquet asked if enough ads would be sold to cover the cost of the update and have the funds loaned to the Authority until the money could be raised. After much discussion, Councilperson Miller moved to loan \$5,000 to the Authority for the portal page update to be reimbursed in 3 years and give \$5,000 to be used toward the update. Councilperson Holcombe seconded the motion. Mr. Burlson noted that in the past, the Authority had 9 businesses who participated in joint advertising. Mr. Burlson also noted that the Town and the Chamber of Commerce would not be charged for their display ad. Mayor Owen called the question to give the Authority \$5,000 and to loan \$5,000 for a 3 year period. The motion passed unanimously.

**IX. Town Manager and Staff Reports** – Mr. Feierabend reported; 1) The Town had received an invitation to the Avery County Fraternal Order of Police event on February 20, 2010 and asked if any of the Council would like to attend. 2) A note with regards to the increase in utility bills will be included with the quarterly bill, the average bill would be increased approximately \$15. 3) Mr. Feierabend proposed a vision planning workshop with a mid year budget presentation. After a brief discussion, the workshop was scheduled for February 3, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Mr. Feierabend noted that he would be holding meetings with the staff to emphasis service to the public. 4) Mr. Feierabend planned to contact a nuisance wildlife group which the Town would be able to refer as a contact when citizens have an issue with wild animals.

Water/Wastewater Supervisor Mr. Heaton reported; 1) The Town was in compliance with the water analysis. 2) The staff has been busy looking for a leak on the Spruce Hollow section. 3) The water treatment plant would have 2 shifts working on the upcoming weekend. Mr. Feierabend noted that due to the weather the quarterly utility bills would be estimated. Councilperson Keller asked for an update on the grant application from the Rural Center and if there was a grant for upgrading meters. Mr. Heaton reported that they had not received any information from the grant application submitted in October 2009 and grants could be used for meters. Councilperson Miller asked about the touch read meters. It was suggested that property owners be asked if they would pay a portion on the new touch read meters. The reports were accepted as submitted.

**X. Closed Session** – Mayor Owen moved to go into Closed Session at 3:35 p.m. Councilperson Holcombe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Councilperson Miller moved to come out of Closed Session at 4.45 p.m. Councilperson Piquet seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. No action was taken in Closed Session.

**XI. Other Business** – There was no other business to come before the Council.

**XII. Adjourned** – Councilperson Piquet moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:48 p.m. Councilperson Miller seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on \_\_\_\_\_, 2010.

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Mayor

ATTEST:

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Town Clerk