

MINUTES
BEECH MOUNTAIN TOWN COUNCIL
June 9, 2009

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 Gil Adams, Pete Chamberlin, Randy Corn and Alan Holcombe. Also present were Town Manager Randy Feierabend, Town Attorney David Paletta, Public Works Director Riley Hatch, Police Chief Jay Hefner, Finance Officer Tabitha Estep, and Special Projects Manager Joe Perry. 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 Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

IV. Adoption of Agenda – The Agenda was adopted as amended with the Board of Adjustment being added under VII New Business.

V. Approval of the Minutes – May 12, 2009, May 19, 2009 and June 2, 2009 – Councilman moved to approve the Regular Minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting as amended. Councilman Holcombe seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. After a brief discussion, the Council agreed to table the May 19, 2009 for the revision regarding the new truck and the special events line item and June 2, 2009 Special Budget Minutes until July 14, 2009.

VI. Public Comment – There was no comment from the public.

VII. New Business –

1. **Board of Adjustment** –

a. Resignation of Norm Smith – Councilman Holcombe reported that Mr. Smith, Chairperson for the Board of Adjustment, had informed him of – his intent to resign from the Board. A letter would be forthcoming.

b. Recommendations for Board of Adjustment vacancies – Councilman Chamberlin moved to the nomination of Urs Gsteiger, 115 W. Shamrock, and Cindy Giarrusso, 1504 Beech Mtn. Pkwy., as alternates to the Board of Adjustment. Councilman Corn seconded the motion. Mr. Piquet indicated that Fred France and Bernie Knepka were on as alternates, which would bring the total to four. Mr. Paletta was asked to research the number of alternates allowed. The motion passed unanimously. After checking the Ordinance, Mr. Paletta indicated that the alternates were set at 3; however he did not see a problem with an extra person until the next meeting.

VIII. Resolution 01-06-09 – Watauga Solid Waste Management – Mr. Feierabend indicated that the Resolution Accepting and Endorsing the solid Waste Management Plan Update of 2009 for

Watauga County was to meet the NCGS 130A-309.09A(b). Councilman Corn moved to approve Resolution 01-06-09 for solid waste management. Councilman Holcombe seconded the motion. Councilman Chamberlin asked that the staff check for changes in recycling restrictions. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. Town Manager's Report – Mr. Feierabend's regular e-mail updates were recognized as the Managers Report. Mayor Owen inquired about the fire department position interview; Mr. Feierabend responded that 7 candidates had been selected for review.

X. Staff Reports – Mr. Feierabend indicated that 'A Cool 5' had exceeded expectations, the accounting for the event was not yet available. Mayor Owen noted that the building department had a significant drop, 2 new homes had been permitted to date. However, renovations and repairs were still being done. Staff reports were accepted as submitted.

XI. Budget Discussion – Fiscal Year 2009 – 2010 – Mayor Owen opened the discussion with a review of the water and sewer rates. Mrs. Estep had supplied the Council with a spread sheet showing the meter size, number of customers, on average consumption, and total billing. Mayor Owen noted that the Pinnacle Inn had the largest increase in rates. The Pinnacle Inn had requested, and been annexed on 1-1-90. The Pinnacle Inn paid the Town a million dollars and put in the lines to have Town services. Over the years, the rates had not been reviewed, accounting for the large increase. Mr. Paletta indicated that the Council had the authority to set rates as they deemed necessary. Councilman Corn asked that the staff research any agreements the Town had with the Pinnacle to help determine why they were paying such a low rate. Mayor Owen indicated that the staff should compare the rates with the surrounding towns. It was noted that the Pinnacle had been delinquent in the paying of their utility bills and a payment plan had been arranged. Mayor Owen asked that Mr. Feierabend do a budget letter including the water and sewer budget.

XII. Closed Session – The Council agreed that a closed session would not be necessary.

XIII. Other Business – Councilman Corn asked for tax update to which Mr. Feierabend indicated that it was currently 91% and late notices had been sent out. Councilman Corn asked if the map indicating gravel usage had been prepared. Mr. Feierabend passed out the map indicating the gravel and paved roads on the mountain. Councilman Chamberlin inquired about the progress on the East Mid Range project, Mr. Hatch indicated that we were waiting on the environmental study.

XIV. Adjourned – Councilman Corn moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 p.m. Councilman Chamberlin seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Minutes approved by Town Council on July 14, 2009.

Mayor

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

