

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
December 10, 2024

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. The meeting took place at Town Hall located at 1036 Main Street, Blowing Rock, NC. Present were Mayor Charlie Sellers, Mayor Pro-Tem Doug Matheson, Council Members Cat Perry, David Harwood and Melissa Pickett. Council Member Pete Gherini was unable to attend. Others in attendance were Town Manager Shane Fox, Town Attorney Joey Petrack, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown, Finance Director Tasha Brown, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Town Engineer Doug Chapman, Public Works Director Matt Blackburn, IT Director Thomas Steele and Town Clerk Hilari Hubner, who recorded the minutes.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Sellers called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Mayor Sellers verified attendance via roll call.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MINUTE APPROVAL

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson made the motion to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2024, regular and closed session meetings, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION

Council Member Harwood made a motion to adopt the regular agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Perry.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Tyler Sime Annexation Request – Lots 5 & 6 Wildwood Place**
- 2. Budget Amendment - #2024-54**

Council Member Perry made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

Gigi Poole of 147 Dogwood Lane – spoke about brush and leaf pick-up in the Dogwood Lane area of town. She explained she understood the collection is behind due to the hurricane but would like some assurance it would be picked up and not forgotten.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Swearing in – Joey Petrack – Town Attorney**

Town Clerk Hilari Hubner administered the oath of office for newly selected Town Attorney Joey Petrack.

2. Town Board Attorney Introduction and Resolution

Manager Shane Fox explained the Town of Blowing Rock's current Attorney, Tucker Deal, resigned to take a full-time position with Appalachian State. Joey Petrack with Eggers, Eggers, Eggers and Eggers PLLC is the attorney selected to replace Mr. Deal.

Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson made a motion to approve the resolution and fee agreement for Mr. Petrack, seconded by Council Member Perry. Unanimously approved.

3. Wonderland Trail Contract

Manager Fox explained on September 27th excessive stormwater from Hurricane Helene caused a slope failure and landslide on Wonderland Trail between the 1100 and 1200 block. The slope failure caused damage to the roadway along with creating stormwater issues below the roadway. Given the nature of the failure and to develop a scope of repair the Town's contract engineering firm McGill Associates, PA prepared a recommended work scope. Given the estimated costs of repair being below NCGS 143-129 for formal bids (\$500K), an informal bid process took place. McGill Associates, PA at the Town's request solicited bids from a total of four (4) contractors. Given the nature of the work and the timing of work with contractors, along with the overwhelming demand after Helene, only one contractor was willing to submit a bid with pricing. Mountain Crest, LLC was the only bidder with a price of \$242,700. After conversations with potential bidders, the demand for work was the primary reason for not submitting a bid. The Town expects that 100% of the costs will be reimbursed by FEMA.

Town Attorney Doug Chapman reviewed details of the scope of work moving forward with the repair.

Council Member Harwood made a motion to approve as presented, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

OFFICIAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Mayor Sellers – Thanked all the staff, particularly Parks and Recreation, for their hard work to make the Christmas Festival and parade such a huge success. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.
- Council Member Perry – Thanked staff as well and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.
- Council Member Harwood – None.
- Council Member Pickett – None.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Matheson – Thanked everyone for their hard work for the Christmas Festival and parade. Update from his League meeting; anticipate a five (5) to ten (10) percent increase in car insurance next year, a ten (10) percent property insurance increase and The State and Town dinner in Raleigh will be February 26th. Wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Town Attorney Joey Petrack – Thanked Council for allowing him the opportunity

and he is looking forward to working with them all. Wished everyone Happy Holidays.

- Town Manager Shane Fox – Gave updates on Main Street, Maple Street, 221, Memorial Park and FEMA – debris and Valley View. Thank you to everyone who made the lighting of the town and Christmas parade a success. Thank you to Brandon Walker for his generous donation of turkeys for the Town staff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:00 PM Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session, **NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(6) Attorney/Client privilege**, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m. the Council returned to open session and with no further business, Council Member Perry made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Pickett. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments

Tyler Sime Annexation Request – Resolution #2024-10 – A -1

Tyler Sime Annexation Request – Resolution #2024-11 – A -2

Budget Amendment #2024-54 – Attachment B