

MINUTES
Town of Blowing Rock
Town Council Meeting
December 9, 2025

The Town of Blowing Rock Town Council met for their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, 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 and David Harwood. Newly Elected Council Members Wayne Miller and Melissa Tausche. Council Members Melissa Pickett and Pete Gherini were unable to attend. Others in attendance were Interim Town Manager Lane Bailey, Town Attorney Joey Petrack, Planning Director Kevin Rothrock, Police Chief Nathan Kirk, Finance Director Tasha Brown, Public Works Director Matt Blackburn, IT Director Thomas Steele, Parks and Recreation Director Jennifer Brown 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 November 12, 2025, regular session and closed session, seconded by Council Member Harwood. Unanimously approved.

Mayor Sellers asked Interim Town Manager Lane Bailey to move the Special Recognition of Council Members Pickett and Gherini to the January meeting since both were unable to attend.

OATH OF OFFICE

Town Clerk Hilari Hubner administered the Oath of Office to incumbent Mayor Charlie Sellers, incumbent Council Member Doug Matheson and newly elected Council Member Wayne Miller.

Clerk of Superior Court Charles Haynes administered the Oath of Office to newly elected Council Member Melissa Tausche.

Mayor Sellers asked Council if they would agree to move the selection of RTAC Member and TDA Council representative selection to Winter Retreat. Council consensus was to move those selections to Winter Retreat.

SELECTION OF MAYOR PRO-TEM

Mayor Sellers opened the floor for nominations for Mayor Pro-Tem. Current Mayor Pro-

Tem Matheson nominated Council Member Harwood, Council Member Miller seconded the nomination. Unanimously approved.

REGULAR AGENDA ADOPTION

Council Member Perry made a motion to adopt the regular agenda, seconded by Council Member Tausche. Unanimously approved.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Budget Amendment - #2025-20**
- 2. Middle Fork Greenway Resolution of Easements – Town of Blowing Rock and ARHS Properties**
- 3. Consent for Interim Town Manager W. Lane Bailey to sign closing documents – Purchase of Land from the Blowing Rock Conference Center**

Council Member Tausche made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Harwood. Unanimously approved.

SPEAKERS FROM THE FLOOR

NONE

REGULAR AGENDA

- 1. Retreat Date Approval – January 26, 27 and 28, 2026 at the Blowing Rock Conference Center**

Council Member Matheson made a motion to approve, seconded by Council Member Miller. Unanimously approved.

- 2. Code of Conduct – Signature of the Board**

Mayor Pro-Tem Harwood made a motion to approve the Code of Conduct, seconded by Council Member Perry. The Board signed the code of conduct form which is to be done annually.

OFFICIAL REPORTS & COMMENTS

- Mayor Sellers – Thanked staff for all their hard work during the snow removal, thanked staff for their hard work for the Christmas parade and the lighting of the Town, welcomed new Council Members, thanked outgoing Council Members Pickett and Gherini and wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.
- Council Member Perry – Noted Blowing Rock has the best employees anywhere around and offered her many thanks to all of them, welcomed Council Members Miller and Tausche - looks forward to working with them, wished everyone Happy Holidays.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Harwood – Welcomed new Council Members Miller and Tausche, thanked outgoing Council Members Pickett and Gherini for their service to the Town, welcomed Interim Town Manager Lane Bailey, thanked Parks and Recreation staff for a great parade, noted he had the pleasure to drive the old fire

truck in the parade, thanked public works for their hard work with snow removal and thanked Council for entrusting him as Mayor Pro-Tem.

- Council Member Miller – Acknowledged the Town has the best staff around and its Councils job to maintain that, he is honored to be serving the voters of Blowing Rock.
- Council Member Matheson – Welcomed Council Members Miller and Tausche, has enjoyed serving with outgoing Council Members Pickett and Gherini, gave an update from his RISK Management meeting from the NC League – retirement changes, Bill 382 is on hold, insurance claims are up in the state - make sure insurance policies are up to date.
- Council Member Tausche – Honor to serve the citizens of Blowing Rock and a pleasure to serve with all the Council, congratulated Mayor Pro-Tem Harwood for his new role, welcomed Interim Manager Bailey, acknowledged the great Christmas parade and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.
- Town Attorney Joey Petrack – None
- Interim Town Manager Lane Bailey – loved the snow this past week, thanked public works director Matt Blackburn and his staff for the hard work during the past week of winter weather, later in the week there will be an orientation session for the two new Council Members – giving the opportunity to meet with department heads individually, recommends the newly elected Council Members attend the Essentials of Government Class, numerous complaints about the parking situation at the post office – the Town has no control over that as it is private property – Town staff has tried to reach out to the property owner – he and Mayor have reached out to Virginia Foxx's office to see if there is anything their office can do, only been here two weeks and can say the Town is very blessed with their staff- there are very talented individuals on staff and he looks forward to working with everyone during his time here.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:30 p.m. Council Member Perry made a motion to go into closed session pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(3) consultant with an attorney regarding judicial action, NCGS 143-318.11.(a)(5) – discussion of potential property acquisition and NCGS 143-318.11 (a)(6) – to consider the qualifications, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of initial employment of an individual public officer or employee or prospective public officer or employee, seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Harwood. Unanimously approved.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m. Council returned to open session. With no further action, Council Member Miller made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Perry. Unanimously approved.

MAYOR _____
Charlie Sellers, Mayor

ATTEST _____
Hilari Hubner, Town Clerk

Attachments

Budget Amendment #2025-20 – Attachment A

Middle Fork Greenway Resolution of Easements – Town of Blowing Rock and ARHS

– Attachment B