

Town of Mars Hill

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

John L. Chandler
Mayor
Nicholas A. Honeycutt
Vice-Mayor
Robert W. Zink
Treasurer
Stuart L. Jolley
Clerk
Larry H. Davis
Secretary

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Mars Hill Town Hall – Conference Room December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, and Robert W. (Bob) Zink. Alderman Nicholas Honeycutt was absent.

STAFF PRESENT: Nathan R. Bennett, Town Manager and Jamie Stokes, Town Attorney

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Chandler. Mayor Chandler welcomed those in attendance.

Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Chandler asked the Board to review the proposed agenda for approval. Upon review of the agenda, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. Alderman Robert (Bob) Zink made a motion the agenda be approved as presented. Alderman Stuart Jolley seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the agenda was approved unanimously. (Attachment A)

Approval of Minutes

Mayor Chandler then asked the Board to review the minutes of the regular meeting held on November 2, 2020. There being no modifications to the minutes, Alderman Zink made a motion that the minutes for November 2, 2020 be approved as presented by management. Alderman Larry Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

Town Manager Report – Nathan Bennett, Town Manager

Mayor Chandler then recognized Mr. Bennett to provide the Town Manager Report.

COVID-19 Response

Mr. Bennett provided the Board an update on the continuing Town response to the coronavirus and COVID-19 situation. The Town continues to be under the state and locally designated state of emergency in response to COVID-19. He also advised all Town facilities are open and operating normally, except for Town Hall. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that he closed Town Hall to the public

on November 23 due to potential staff exposures to COVID-19 and will remain closed indefinitely. Administrative staff are working staggered shifts in the office and also working remotely to limit potential exposure. Mr. Bennett advised there is a virtual meeting with the Madison County Health Department to discuss the distribution plan for the COVID vaccine that will be available soon. Furthermore, Mr. Bennett advised that he has completed all of the reporting and reimbursement request documentation for Madison County and NCPRO regarding the CARES Act funding designated for the Town's use. The final reimbursement payment was received today and that completes this portion of the process. Generally, cases are on the rise in Madison County, with local nursing facilities experiencing higher case counts. Officials continue to advise to the community to wear face masks, wait six feet apart from others, and wash hands often with soap and water or sanitizer.

General Update

Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the improvements to the sewer pump station on Carl Eller Road are scheduled to begin in January. This work is funded by grants from the US EDA and GoldenLEAF Foundation and both of those organizations have approved our request for extensions to the project completion deadlines. Mr. Bennett advised that he, along with the administrative staff, have been reviewing several vendor products to facilitate our ability to receive online bill payments for Town services, tax payments and citations. He reported that this is a frequently requested service of customers. This new service function should not result in any additional expenditures as we will replace the existing credit card terminal and associated costs with the new system and other portions of the costs will be paid by the customer through a small convenience fee charged by the vendor. This process is nearing completion and we will be making a decision by the first of January with implementation to follow.

Further, Mr. Bennett advised the Board that due to the situation with COVID-19 there will not be an employee Christmas dinner. He advised the Board that we are exploring a potential alternative appreciation gift in lieu of the dinner. Mr. Bennett advised that the Town offices and services will be closed in observance of the following holidays: Christmas on December 24, 25 and 28 (Thursday, Friday, and Monday); and New Year's Day on Friday, January 1, 2021. Mr. Bennett provided general updates on other miscellaneous activities.

Old Business

Mayor Chandler then moved to address old business. There was no old business.

New Business

Mayor Chandler then moved to address new business. There was no new business.

Public Comment

The Mayor then moved to public comments. There were no public comments.

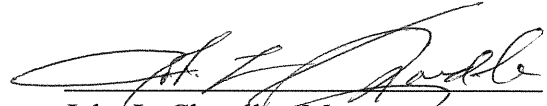
Closed Session (Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11)

There was no closed session.


Adjourn

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Chandler called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Zink made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Approved and authenticated this the 4th day of January, 2021.


John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:


Nathan R. Bennett,
Town Manager





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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room

December 7, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *Mayor John L. Chandler*
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: November 2, 2020
4. Town Manager Report – *Nathan Bennett, Town Manager*
 - a. COVID-19 Response Update
 - b. General Update
5. Old Business
6. New Business
7. Public Comment
8. Closed Session (*Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 – if needed*)
9. Adjourn

Mars Hill Town Hall

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