



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 November 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

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

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 Nicholas Honeycutt 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 October 5, 2020 and the special meeting held October 8, 2020. There being no modifications to the minutes, Alderman Robert (Bob) Zink made a motion that the minutes for October 5, 2020 and October 8, 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. Generally, cases are on the rise in Madison County, with local nursing facilities experiencing higher case counts. Advice to the community continues to stress wearing of face masks, waiting six feet apart from others, washing hands often with soap and water or sanitizer.

Financial Report – 1st Quarter

Mr. Bennett presented then presented the Financial Report for the first quarter ending September 30, 2020. Upon reviewing the report and completing discussion of the matter, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. Alderman Jolley made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented. Alderman Honeycutt seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. (Attachment B)

General Update

Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the downtown waterline improvement project has been completed and closed out. The improvements to the sewer pump station on Carl Eller Road continue to be delayed but the engineers and contractor are working to determine a schedule for returning to the site to complete this work as soon as feasible, hopefully before the end of this year. Mr. Bennett also advised the repair of the clarifier at the wastewater treatment plant was completed last week. Further, Mr. Bennett advised the Board that he had received notification that the grant application to the N.C. Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for improvements to the Smith Farm Park at the Bailey Mountain Preserve was not funded in this cycle. He advised that over \$20 million in project applications were received and just over \$5 million in funding was awarded. Again, just as last year, the Town's project was just outside the cutoff of those projects that were funded. He advised staff and the consultant will review the application and scoring matrix with the PARTF staff and determine where the project application can be improved for the next funding cycle in 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 opened the floor for public comments. Caroline Twiggs, MHU Community Engagement, spoke to the Board about her role at the University with the Bonner Scholars program and involvement with the Madison County Racial Justice Coalition. She introduced two MHU students in attendance who Bonner Scholars who are also involved in the racial justice movement in the community. The students were Jon Laurence Rominey and Amber Norman. Amber Norman introduced herself as a social work major, school activities, involved with the racial justice coalition, and excited to learn about town government. Jon Laurence Rominey also introduced himself as a Bonner Scholar and interests in the racial justice coalition and grateful for the opportunity to attend this meeting to learn more about town affairs.

Paul Dempsey spoke in support of the Madison County Racial Justice Coalition and these students present tonight. She general spoke regarding her interest to assist the Town with racial justice issues and encouraged the Town to help in racial justice efforts to make our community stronger and improve the quality of life for all people. Alderman Honeycutt advised these speakers that they are doing good work and appreciates their efforts.

Bill Downey asked the Board if they were familiar with the regional Hellbender Trail Network. Mr. Bennett advised him the Town is aware of this trail-branding project developed by the Land of Sky Regional Council. Mr. Downey advised in this draft network that there is not a trail link from Mars Hill to Weaverville and asked if there was a plan to do so. Mr. Bennett advised that there have been conversations with the Land of Sky Regional County and the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization to look at opportunities to make this connection.

There were no additional public comments.

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

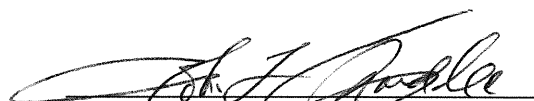
Mayor Chandler then moved to address the need for a closed session. Mr. Bennett advised that a short closed session was necessary to advise the Board of a personnel matter and also discuss a legal matter. Alderman Zink made a motion to enter into closed session for the purposes of discussion of personnel and a legal matter. Alderman Jolley seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was unanimously approved.

Upon completion of the discussion pertaining to the closed session, Mayor Chandler asked for a motion. Alderman Zink made a motion to end the closed session and return to open session. Alderman Jolley seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was unanimously approved.


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 Jolley 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 7th day of December, 2020.


John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:


Nathan R. Bennett,
Town Manager





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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room

November 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *Mayor John L. Chandler*
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: October 5, 2020 and October 8, 2020
4. Town Manager Report – *Nathan Bennett, Town Manager*
 - a. COVID-19 Response Update
 - b. Financial Report – 1st Quarter
 - c. 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

ATTACHMENT B

Town of Mars Hill			
Mars Hill, North Carolina			
FINANCIAL STATEMENT			
30-Sep-20			
SECTION I: General & Powell Bill Funds		Budget	Actual
A. Revenues Anticipated			
Property Tax (Current Year/\$.47 per \$100)	\$	593,659.00	\$ 1,742.00
Property Tax (Prior Years)	\$	5,500.00	\$ 343.00
Payment in Lieu of Taxes	\$	8,000.00	\$ -
Tax Penalties and Interest	\$	2,000.00	\$ 189.00
Ad Valorem Vehicle Tax	\$	40,000.00	\$ 13,825.00
Municipal Parking Fee	\$	5,000.00	\$ 8,300.00
Interest Earned/Investments	\$	10,000.00	\$ 398.00
Rents and Concessions	\$	3,000.00	\$ -
Utilities Revenue	\$	2,500.00	\$ 229.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$	5,000.00	\$ 1,552.00
Utilities Franchise Tax	\$	125,000.00	\$ 30,399.00
Excise Tax - Beer & Wine	\$	8,000.00	\$ -
Powell Bill Street Allocation	\$	56,000.00	\$ 26,561.00
Local Option Sales Tax	\$	425,000.00	\$ 152,410.00
Court Costs, Fees, Etc.	\$	100.00	\$ -
Parking Violation Penalties	\$	3,000.00	\$ 50.00
Zoning Permits	\$	100.00	\$ 80.00
Inspection/Fire Codes Fee/Fines	\$	-	\$ 850.00
Street Department Revenue	\$	-	\$ 96.00
Police Department Revenue/Donation	\$	100.00	\$ 125.00
Recreation Department Revenues	\$	20,000.00	\$ 10,210.00
Fire Department Revenues	\$	3,000.00	\$ 4,872.00
Fire Dept. Relief Funds	\$	4,000.00	\$ -
Tax Refunds	\$	10,000.00	\$ 1,835.00
Special Fire District Tax	\$	575,000.00	\$ 22,747.00
Appropriated Fund Balance, General	\$	35,000.00	\$ 225,318.00
Appropriated Fund Balance, Powell Bill	\$	90,000.00	\$ -
Other Fin. Sources/Uses-Transfer In	\$	-	\$ -
TOTAL ANTICIPATED REVENUES	\$	2,028,959.00	\$ 502,131.00
B. EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED			
1. Governing Body	\$	84,300.00	\$ 11,079.00
2. Administration	\$	254,300.00	\$ 72,392.00
3. Elections	\$	-	\$ -
4. Tax Collections	\$	2,500.00	\$ 224.00
5. Public Buildings	\$	30,000.00	\$ 10,786.00
(Continued to Page 2)			

SECTION III: WW Treatment Improvement Project**A. Revenues Anticipated**

Federal Government Grants/EDA	\$	390,120.00	\$	317,444.00
State Government Grants/Golden Leaf	\$	487,650.00	\$	438,885.00
Local Government Funds	\$	97,530.00	\$	-
Due to/From Other Funds (Enterprise Loan)	\$	-	\$	97,530.00
TOTAL REVENUES ANTICIPATED	\$	975,300.00	\$	853,859.00

B. Expenditures Authorized

Con. Serv./Mobilization	\$	19,500.00	\$	19,500.00
Sludge Pump Station	\$	162,900.00	\$	162,900.00
D.O. Control System/Blower	\$	132,500.00	\$	30,185.00
Concrete Tank Restoration	\$	145,000.00	\$	164,629.00
Exit 11/1000 LF Sewer Line	\$	95,000.00	\$	95,000.00
Exit 11/Sewer Line Pump Station	\$	151,000.00	\$	151,000.00
Exit 11/SPS Sewer Force Main	\$	42,800.00	\$	42,800.00
Contingency	\$	74,900.00	\$	-
Design & Permitting	\$	74,900.00	\$	74,900.00
Bidding/Award	\$	8,400.00	\$	8,400.00
Construction Administration	\$	37,400.00	\$	31,465.00
Grant Administration	\$	24,500.00	\$	19,600.00
Legal	\$	6,500.00	\$	-
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED	\$	975,300.00	\$	800,379.00

SECTION IV: Bailey Mountain Project**A. Revenues Anticipated**

Fed/Land & Water Conservation Fund	\$	250,000.00	\$	250,000.00
St./Clean Water Mgmt. Trust Fund	\$	352,326.00	\$	352,326.00
Local Funds	\$	106,074.00	\$	80,000.00
Enterprise Fund (Loan) Due/to From	\$	-	\$	-
TOTAL REVENUES ANTICIPATED	\$	708,400.00	\$	682,326.00

B. Expenditures Authorized

Capital Outlay/Land Purchase	\$	675,000.00	\$	675,000.00
Legal/Adm/Professional Costs	\$	33,400.00	\$	5,752.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES AUTHORIZED	\$	708,400.00	\$	680,752.00