



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 October 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, October 5, 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 August 3, 2020. There being no modifications to the minutes, Alderman Jolley made a motion that the minutes for August 3, 2020 be approved as presented by management. Alderman Robert (Bob) Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

PROCLAMATION – “World Polio Day”

Mayor Chandler then recognized Ms. Barbara Shepard with Madison Rotary Club to present a request for a proclamation to recognize “World Polio Day,” which is an initiative of Rotary International. Ms. Shepard discussed the status of the disabling disease of polio around the world and the work of Rotary to eradicate it from the planet. Ms. Shepard read the proposed proclamation for consideration by the Board. The Mayor and Aldermen thanked Ms. Shepard for her presentation and the work Rotary is doing this area. Upon completion of discussion, the Mayor called for a motion. Alderman

Jolley made a motion to approve the “**PROCLAMATION – 2020 World Polio Day**” setting October 24, 2020 as 2020 World Polio Day in the Town of Mars Hill and encouraging all citizens to join Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world. Alderman Honeycutt seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. (Attachment B)

PRESENTATION – “Strengthening Our Bonds as Neighbors”

Mayor Chandler then recognized Mr. Jonathan McCoy, Director of the Mars Hill University Center for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for a presentation relating to community inclusion and racial justice. He stated that MHU is a vital part of this community and that the mission of the Center is that students understand they are part of the town as well and that they are stewards of this community. Upon student return to campus following the spring closure due to the coronavirus, it was good to see signs in local businesses that students are welcome here. Students are making a commitment to do the things they need to in order to be here in school and welcome the support of the greater community. Student reality is shaped by perception and the reality is that we are made to feel welcome and encouraged to make investment in the community. In light of social justice issues around the county, Mr. McCoy stated there is a need to form bonds that are a conscious effort to make each other feel welcome and that we care about each other as neighbors. If students feel welcome, they will stay and become invested in this area. He stated that students wanted to come back to Mars Hill and are in fact happy to be here. He stated that there is the realization that our lives are entwined with one another and that the health of one, affects the health of the other. Now is an ideal time to strengthen our bonds as the town of Mars Hill and the university of Mars Hill to work together to become the community of Mars Hill. Mr. McCoy thanked the Board for the work they are doing and looks forward to working together to strengthening those bonds. The Mayor thanked Mr. McCoy for his presentation.

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 have reopened and operating normally. As of Friday, October 2, 2020, the Governor moved the state to Phase 3 on the reopening process and that allowed the playground at the Recreation Park to reopen, the only facility remaining under restrictions.

CARES Act Funding – Interlocal Agreement with Madison County

Mr. Bennett advised that since the Board’s last meeting, he has received the Interlocal Agreement from Madison County which establishes the process and requirements for transfer of Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the County to the Town of Mars Hill in the amount of \$148,308.81. The agreement establishes the standard requirements from the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) and state law to utilize these funds and makes clear that the Town will be responsible for their use consistent with the intended purpose to mitigate and respond to COVID-19. Town Attorney Jamie

Stokes stated she has reviewed the agreement and has no concerns. Upon completion of discussion concerning the Interlocal Agreement, the Mayor called for a motion. Alderman Zink made a motion to approve the **“Interlocal Agreement Between the County of Madison And the Municipality of the Town of Mars Hill For management of Funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act”** as presented. Alderman Larry Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. (Attachment C)

CARES Act Funding – Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – Municipality Plan

Mr. Bennett advised that he has prepared and submitted the Town’s “Municipality Plan” to Madison County and the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office outlining the Town’s planned use of \$148,308.81 from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), a part of the CARES Act funding discussed above. This proposed plan is consistent with the requirements outlined in the previously discussed Interlocal Agreement with Madison County, as well as the guidance provided by the U.S. Treasury Department and the NCPRO. The Town proposes to utilize these funds to for specific expenses in the areas as follows: medical expenses, public health expenses, expenses to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 public health measures, payroll expenses for public safety employees and a grant to Mars Hill University for direct public health measures they have taken to mitigate and respond to COVID-19 and a potential grant up to \$5,000 to Madison County Schools for Mars Hill Elementary students internet connectivity to facilitate distance learning. These funds must be spent by December 31, 2020 or they are returned to the state. Mr. Bennett advised that he met the required September 1st submission date of the plan to the county. Mr. Bennett will keep the Board advised of any developments. Upon completion of discussion of the municipality plan, the Mayor called for a motion. Alderman Davis made a motion to approve the **“Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Municipality Plan”** as presented by management. Alderman Jolley seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously.

FY 2020-21 Budget Review

Mr. Bennett then addressed the FY 2020-21 Budget. Mr. Bennett provided the Board with a summary of the final property tax values for the Town of Mars Hill as established by Madison County pursuant to the completion of the state-required mass reappraisal process effective January 1, 2020. Mr. Bennett advised that these values were received by the Town last week which is highly unusual when normally the assessed values would be made available prior to the adoption of the budget in June. He further explained that at the time the budget was required to be adopted those values were unknown and estimates were used in determining the necessary ad valorem tax rate, with the understanding that the rate would be reviewed by the Board upon receipt of final values. Those “final” values, which many properties are still under appeal with the Madison County Tax Assessor, are approximately 10% higher than the projected estimates used for the budget. Upon completion of discussion of these issues by the Board, Mayor Chandler made a motion to direct the Town Attorney to investigate the legal issues pertaining to the tax values and rate changes after budget adoption and report back to the Board as soon as practical. Alderman Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously.

General Update

Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the downtown waterline improvement project was completed today. In addition, the improvements to the sewer pump station on Carl Eller Road have been delayed due to right-of-way and electric service issues but meetings held last week determined a clear process forward and the engineers and contractor are working to determine a schedule for returning to the site to complete this work as soon as feasible. Mr. Bennett advised that he has determined it to be necessary to cancel the Christmas Parade due to ongoing uncertainty with COVID-19 and other communities taking similar actions. 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 items of new business. Alderman Honeycutt asked about Halloween trick-or-treating. Mr. Bennett advised the police and fire departments are planning to provide treats at the main station and MHU student groups are planning to provide treats on College Street. There was discussion about encouraging an earlier start in the day to allow folks to spread out and also encourage folks to safely pre-bag any treats. Mr. Bennett will put information about Halloween safety precautions on our social media accounts.

There was no other new business.

Public Comment

The Mayor then opened the floor for public comments. Bill Sewell asked the Board what could be done by the Town to send his tax bill to his mortgage company for payment. Mr. Sewell was advised that the Town has no way to know where a property owner may have a mortgage and that the property owner should forward the bill to the financial institution or have the institution contact Town Hall to make appropriate payment arrangements.

Susan Sewell again discussed concerns she has about speeding on North Main Street. Mr. Bennett advised that NCDOT was notified and that they have provided additional signage and removed vegetation obstructing speed limit signs. The Police Department and the N.C. Highway Patrol has been requested to increase patrols and employ appropriate enforcement measures. Mr. Bennett also advised he placed an article in the Town newsletter. The Town continues to evaluate the cost and effectiveness of flashing radar enabled speed limit signage.

Paul Dempsey spoke in support of the presentation earlier by Jonathan McCoy regarding racial justice to make our community stronger and improve the quality of life for all people. She expressed she is willing and able to offer her support and energy to assist efforts to strengthen the bonds and relationships between the Town and MHU and everyone. She wanted to register her concerns that we do all that we can to make our community stronger and be intentional in efforts to make sure everyone feels welcome and treated with respect and dignity.

Unknown male stated he heard that a four-way stop was planned for the intersection of North Main and Bruce Road as a solution to speeding. Mr. Bennett and Board members advised that is a state-maintained road but there has been no discussion to make a four-way stop at that intersection. He also asked about the theft of political signs and he was advised that the police department is vigilant for that issue and will enforce the law should anyone be found illegally removing such signage.

There were no additional public comments.

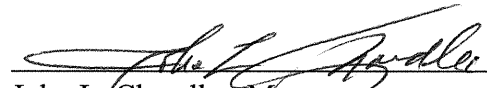
Closed Session (Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11)

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 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 2nd day of November, 2020.


John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nathan R. Bennett,
Town Manager





Town of Mars Hill

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

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AGENDA

REGULAR MEETING

Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room

October 5, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order – *Mayor John L. Chandler*
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: August 3, 2020
4. **PROCLAMATION** – “World Polio Day” – *Barbara Shepard, Madison Rotary Club*
5. **PRESENTATION** – “Strengthening Our Bonds as Neighbors”
Jonathan McCoy – MHU Center for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
6. Town Manager Report – *Nathan Bennett, Town Manager*
 - a. COVID-19 Response Update
 - b. CARES Act Funding
 - i. Interlocal Agreement with Madison County
 - ii. Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) – Municipality Plan
 - c. FY 2020-21 Budget Review
 - d. General Update
7. Old Business
8. New Business
9. Public Comment
10. Closed Session (*Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 – if needed*)
11. Adjourn

Mars Hill Town Hall

280 North Main Street • P.O. Box 368

Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

Phone: (828) 689-2301 • Fax: (828) 689-3333



Town of Mars Hill

ATTACHMENT B

PROCLAMATION 2020 WORLD POLIO DAY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

WHEREAS, Rotary International (Rotary) is a global network of neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite and take action to create lasting change in communities across the globe; and

WHEREAS, the Rotary motto, Service Above Self, inspires members to provide humanitarian service, follow high ethical standards, and promote goodwill and peace in the world; and

WHEREAS, Rotary in 1985 launched PolioPlus and in 1988 helped establish the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which today includes the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, UNICEF, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, to immunize the children of the world against polio; and

WHEREAS, polio cases have dropped by 99.9 percent since 1988 and the world stands on the threshold of eradicating the disease; and

WHEREAS, to date, Rotary has contributed more than US\$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protecting more than 2.5 billion children in 122 countries; and

WHEREAS, Rotary is working to raise an additional \$50 million per year, which would be leveraged for maximum impact by an additional \$100 million annually from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation; and

WHEREAS, these efforts are providing much-needed operational support, medical staff, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents; and

WHEREAS, in addition, Rotary has played a major role in decisions by donor governments to contribute more than \$10 billion to the effort; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1.2 million Rotary members in more than 35,000 clubs throughout the world that sponsor service projects to address such critical issues as poverty, disease, hunger, illiteracy, and the environment in their local communities and abroad.

NOW, THEREFORE, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina,
IT IS ORDERED:


Section 1. That October 24, 2020 is hereby proclaimed "2020 WORLD POLIO DAY" in the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.


Section 2. That all citizens are encouraged to join Rotary International in the fight for a polio-free world.

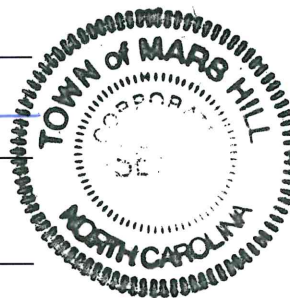
Section 3. This Proclamation shall be effective upon adoption.

ADOPTED this 5th day of October 2020, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.



JOHN L. CHANDLER, Mayor


STUART L. JOLLEY, Clerk


LARRY H. DAVIS, Secretary




NICHOLAS A. HONEYCUTT, Vice-Mayor


ROBERT W. ZINK, Treasurer

Interlocal Agreement Between the County of Madison
And the Municipality [Town] of Mars Hill
For Management of Funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF)
Established by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

THIS INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT, made and entered into pursuant to Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the North Carolina General Statutes this 11th day of August 2020, by and between the County of Madison, a body politic and corporate organized and existing under the laws of the state of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "County") and Mars Hill, a North Carolina Municipal Corporation organized and existing under the laws of the state of North Carolina (hereinafter referred to as "Municipality");

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136) established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF); and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina received approximately \$4.067 billion in CRF funds, including approximately \$481,000,000, which the U.S. Treasury sent directly to four local governments in the State; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 allocates \$300 million of the State of North Carolina's CRF allocation to counties ineligible to receive direct funding from the federal CRF; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 directs the recipient County to allocate at least 25 percent of the funds for use by municipalities within the County for necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency as required by section 601(d) of the Social Security Act, as amended by the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 requires the recipient County to determine the total amount allocated to each municipality within the County, and requires each municipality that receives funds to develop a plan to spend the funds by September 1, 2020, or the County can use those funds or redistribute to other municipalities; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 makes the CRF allocations subject to recoupment by the U.S. Treasury if they are not used in an eligible manner according to the most recently published U.S. Treasury Department guidance for CRF; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 states counties and municipalities are liable to the State for any misuse or mishandling of the funds, and subject to clawback and other appropriate measures, including the reduction or elimination of other State Funds; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 states any local government officer, official, or employee will be subject to a civil action by the State and held personally liable for reimbursement for violating the requirements of the CRF allocation; and

WHEREAS, S.L. 2020-80 and the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office have structured the administration of the CRF allocation to require the County to administer the allocation to municipalities and submit expenditure plans to the State; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office has advised that municipalities shall be directly liable to the State for violating the requirements of the CRF allocation; and

WHEREAS, the County's CRF allocation is \$1,026,181.00; and

WHEREAS, the Municipality's CRF allocation is \$148,308.81.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is agreed as follows:

1. Madison County shall allocate to the Municipality \$148,308.81 for expenditures as specified in the Municipality's plan, due Sept. 1, 2020. As stated in S.L. 2020-80, U.S. Treasury Guidance, and N.C. Pandemic Recovery Office guidance, the county is administering the local government CRF allocation. Counties and municipalities are liable to the State for any misuse or mishandling of the funds allocated to each entity, and subject to clawback and other appropriate measures, including the reduction or elimination of State Funds.
2. Municipality agrees to expend funds allocated pursuant to this Agreement in compliance with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act (P.L. 116-136), S.L. 2020-80, U.S. Treasury Department Guidance, and NC Pandemic Recovery Office guidance. Any funds allocated by the County to the Municipality that are found to be expended in violation of all applicable laws and guidance shall be repaid by the Municipality to the State of North Carolina. The County assumes no liability for any violations of CRF expenditure requirements by the Municipality, its officers, agents, or employees, for funds allocated by the County to the Municipality. The Municipality shall maintain documentation of their expenditures to ensure compliance with reporting and auditing requirements.
3. In accordance with guidance from the U.S. Treasury Department, CRF payments are federal financial assistance subject to Single Audit requirements found in Uniform Guidance 2 CFR §200 Subpart F. CRF is a federal program with a CFDA No. 21.019. The U.S. Treasury Department is the federal granting agency and, except for the four local governments that received CRF directly, the Office of State Management and Budget

(OSBM) is the State pass-through entity. The Uniform Guidance CFR §200 Subparts B, C, D, and E do not apply, except for §200.303 and §§ 200.330 through 200.332.

4. In order to comply with State reporting requirements required pursuant to S.L. 2020-80, the Municipality shall submit its CRF Plan to the County by September 1, 2020. Municipality acknowledges that failure to submit its CRF Plan to the County by this date shall result in the loss of funding provided for in this Agreement. If the County has already transmitted funds to the Municipality and the Municipality fails to submit its CRF Plan to the County by the date provided for in this paragraph, the Municipality shall return the funds to the County.
5. In order to comply with monthly State reporting requirements on use of the funds, Municipality shall submit the required forms to the County by the 1st day each month for the County to upload to the State portal (Attachments C-1 and C-2). Following receipt of the monthly reports and substantiation for the amount requested for reimbursement, as required by OSBM, the County shall reimburse the Municipality for the funds expended. *[add any specific process requirements at discretion of County]*
6. A Final Report (Attachment F) will be required when the Municipality's allocation is fully spent or by November 20th, whichever is earlier. It is the County's intent to reallocate any unspent funds by December 1st to other eligible CRF expenses to fully utilize all CRF funds for the community.
7. Modifications to this Agreement shall be in writing, signed, duly executed by the parties hereto, and kept on file along with the original Agreement.
8. Any notice permitted or required under this Agreement from one party to the other must be in writing and will be effective (a) on the date it was actually delivered to the addressee if delivered personally, or sent by a nationally recognized courier (such as FedEx or United Parcel Service) or sent by facsimile, or (b) three days after having been deposited in the United States mail, if sent by certified mail, return receipt request, in each case to the respective addresses of Municipality and the County listed below, or those other addresses of which either party gives the other party written notice:

If to the Municipality, to:

Town of Mars Hill
Po Box 368
Mars Hill, NC 28754

If to the County, to:

Madison County
Po Box 579
Marshall, NC 28753

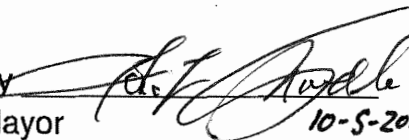
9. The parties agree that the terms and provisions of this Agreement shall be construed in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina. This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this **INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT** to be duly executed pursuant to authorization obtained in a duly adopted resolution or has otherwise been duly authorized to sign on behalf of their respective corporation.

Municipality of Mars Hill

County of Madison

By
Mayor

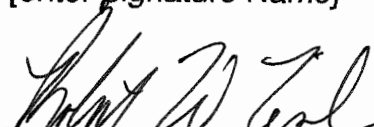

10-5-2020

By


Chair, Board of Commissioners

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.


[enter signature Name]


Robert W. Zink, Treasurer
Town of Mars Hill

10-5-2020

