

BANNER ELK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
April 8th, 2024
MINUTES

The Banner Elk Town Council met on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00p.m.

Council Members present: Mayor Brenda Lyerly, Charles VonCanon, Mike Dunn, and David Lecka.

Staff present: Town Manager Rick Owen, Police Chief Kevin Hodges, Public Services Director Justin Hodges, and Attorney Four Eggers.

Call Meeting to Order

At 6:00 p.m. Mayor Lyerly called the regular Town Council meeting of April 8, 2024, to order.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Lyerly led those in attendance with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation

Council Member Charles VonCanon opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of March 11, 2024

The February minutes were approved with a motion by Councilman Dunn and seconded by Council member VonCanon. All were in favor.

Approval of the Stated Agenda

Mayor Lyerly asked if there was a motion to approve the stated agenda. Councilman VonCanon motioned to approve the agenda as stated and was seconded by Councilman Lecka. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

Ted Silver addressed the Council about his recent trip to Washington, D.C. with students from LMC to attend the Adult Bicycle Summit. He will be taking more students in June to a Youth Bicycle Summit in Allenstown, PA.

Police Chief Kevin Hodges introduced 2 new police officers. Officers Wayne Miller and Lukas Patterson. Both have been sworn in and are already working.

Re-Zoning Request: Currently C-2, Requesting R-2; Parcel 1859-1701-3114

Town Manager Rick Owen reported the property owner at 385 S. Beech Mountain Parkway would like to have the property rezoned residential. Councilman VonCanon stated the property had at one time been zoned residential before. Councilman VonCanon motioned to call for a public hearing for the rezoning request with a second from Councilman Dunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Consider Resolution, Accepting ARPA Wastewater Funding

Councilman Lecka motioned to accept the resolution as written with a second from Councilman Dunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Town Manager Owen presented the Council with a Proclamation. He also informed the Council trees would be planted at the Historic Banner Elk School and on Culver St. Councilman VonCanon motioned to pass the Arbor Day Proclamation with a second from Councilman Dunn. The motion passed unanimously.

Banner House Museum, Wakefield Paintings

Manager Owen reminded the Council of the 2 paintings the Town was gifted from an Estate. They were in a trust with \$5,000 to take care of them. The paintings have been given to the Banner House Museum for display. Manager Owen asked the Council to transfer the \$5,000 to the Banner House Museum to help put in a dehumidifier which will help with preserving the paintings, and all other historic items in the Museum's care. Councilman VonCanon made a motion to transfer the money to the museum with a second from Councilman Lecka. The motion passed unanimously.

Historic Banner Elk School Site Project Update

Town Manager Rick Owen gave an update to the Council on the Historic School Project. He stated that the sod is scheduled to be laid in early May. Mountain Electric is currently pulling wire into conduit. Work continues on the curb and guttering, with installation of the brick sidewalks to begin next week. Manager Owen is working with a lighting company to help with the lighting choices that will meet the ordinance. He is looking at different shades on current lighting structures that would allow for more light to be distributed. Councilman Dunn asked if new shades could be used at other locations if it is determined to be better. Manager Owen is going to look into whether they can be changed.

Manager's Update and Staff Reports

Town Manager Rick Owen provided the Council with staff reports.

NC DOT Litter Sweep is April 13-27. Nancy will have a list of Town streets for adoption, along with trash bags at Town Hall. The Town will pick the bags up once they are done.

Budget workshops are scheduled for May 2, June 6 and June 27.

Manager Owen informed the Council of a Special Use Permit request for a tobacco shop. The Board of Adjustments will hear the proposal at their next meeting.

Manager Owen informed the Council of a feral cat problem happening at The Cottages in Banner Elk. A group of volunteers from Linville Land Harbor have gotten involved and have successfully caught eighteen of the cats and had them fixed. The group is asking for reimbursement of money to assist with vet bills, and other costs associated with the project. They have sent Manager Owen a list of expenses associated with catching and fixing the cats. Mayor Lyerly stated she is comfortable helping with tangible costs. After lengthy discussion, Councilman Lecka made a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for vet bills with receipts provided. Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Closed Session

Councilman Dunn made a motion to go into closed session with a second from Councilman VonCanon. The motion passed unanimously.

Other Business

Discussion of radar signs being taken down and moved around.

Discussion of stop signs and road signs being stolen.

Adjourn

With no further discussion, Councilman Lecka motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Councilman Dunn. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____
Mayor Brenda Lyerly

Attested: _____