

BANNER ELK TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 10, 2024

MINUTES

The Banner Elk Town Council met on Monday, June 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Town Manager Rick Owen, Chief Hodges, and Attorney Four Eggers.

Call Meeting to Order

At 6:00 pm Mayor Lyerly called the regular Town Council meeting of June 10, 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.

Public Hearing

Councilman Tufts made a motion to go into a public hearing on the amendment of the Town Ordinances and Councilman VonCanon seconded the motion. Manager Owen requested that the Council consider amending the Town of Banner Elk Code of Ordinances § 152.029 to exempt governmental services and public utilities from the setback regulations located within the ordinance in order to allow for more efficient use of Town resources when developing land for use by governmental services and/or public utilities, and to change 'conditional use' to 'special use' to reflect statutory updates in Chapter 160D of the North Carolina General Statutes. He also asked them to consider changing the technical language regarding the historic overlay district and historic overlay committee and review on projects. Mayor Lyerly closed the public hearing.

Councilman Dunn opened a public hearing on the fiscal year budget for 2024-2025 and Councilman Tufts seconded the motion. Manager Owen read a budget message to those attending that included the proposed tax rate and detailed the items to be found in the budget. Councilman VonCanon detailed staffing positions included in the budget. Mayor Lyerly closed the public hearing.

Approval of Stated Agenda

Mayor Lyerly asked for a motion to approve or amend the stated agenda. Councilman Lecka motioned to approve the agenda as stated. The motion passed unanimously.

Comment

There was no public comment.

Woolly Worm Festival, Informational – Victoria Bowman

Victoria Bowman introduced herself and established her background in event planning. She is now the chairwoman for the Festival. There are four Chamber members and four Kiwanis members on the board

this year. She is working to build and rebuild relationships locally with the school district leadership and Lees McRae College. Mrs. Bowman is working on “end user” experience, as well.

Mayland Community College, Informational – Dr. Boyd

This item was postponed since Dr. Boyd could not be present this evening.

Zoning Ordinance Amendment – Attorney Eggers

Manager Owen requested that this item be tabled until next month so that he can meet with the Planning Board to review these changes.

Annexation Request, 1484 Tynecastle Highway

Manager Owen stated that the Clerk has certified the information for annexation of *Parcel: 1858-1156-1033*, 1484 Tynecastle Highway, and that everything is in order. Councilman VonCanon moved to bring the annexation request to public hearing at the next meeting and Councilman Dunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ABC Board Appointment

Mayor Lyerly stated that the current ABC Board Appointment is willing to renew that appointment. Councilman Tufts made a motion to renew the current ABC Board appointment and Councilman Lecka seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2024-2025 Budget Discussion

Manager Owen stated that there is an upcoming meeting to conduct another review for final changes on June 27th and the budget must be passed by June 30th. He asked that the Council send any further direction to him before that time.

Historic Banner Elk School Site Project Update

Manager Owen shared that the Project is nearly complete. Signage and a small section of sidewalk needs to be completed. This part of the Project is less than anticipated which allows for money to be used in the lighting phase of the project. Art On The Greene was the first true visitor experience and it was very positive with safety and use of space. Lighting has been ordered and is in various stages of time frames for delivery. Landscaping will begin soon; the planning process must happen on paper first. He said that thoughts and input are welcome. He concluded by saying that the downpour at the end of Art On The Greene demonstrated that water drains well in all areas.

Manager’s Update & Staff Reports

Manager Owen reported that coordination with the BE Chamber is in progress for parking for the Concerts nights. Also, the bollards have arrived, and help is needed to install them since the town has two maintenance vacancies. Manager Owen and Public Services Director Hodges are working on filling the vacancies.

Mayor Lyerly directed Council to the updates from staff in their packets and provided an opportunity to ask questions.

Other Business

There was no further business this evening.

Adjourn

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

The meeting ended at 6:40.

Approved: _____
Mayor Brenda Lyerly

Attested: _____