

Town of Seven Devils
Tuesday, June 13, 2023
Public Hearing FY24 – 5:00pm
Regular Town Council Meeting – 5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met for Public Hearing – FY24 Budget Ordinance at 5:00pm and Regular Town Council meeting at 5:30pm on Tuesday, June 13, 2023.

Attendance included: Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, and Council Members Wayne Bonomo, Leigh Sasse and Jeffrey Williams.

Staff attendance included: Town Manager Johnathan Harris, Fire Chief Matt Millsaps, and Finance Officer Helga Sappington; The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp. Town Attorney Rob Angle joined at 5:30pm.

INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Invocation for the Public Hearing & Town Council meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:08pm.

OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Fontaine stated the purpose of the Public Hearing is to receive public comment on the FY24 Budget Ordinance.

Citizens who want to speak need to sign up at the podium and will be allowed 3 minutes. The Town Clerk controls the timer.

Member Sasse made a motion to open the public hearing; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed.

Presentation

Town Manager Harris reviewed the FY24 Budget highlights including Revenues and Expenditures. The Town's tax rate will remain the same at \$.47.

The Town Council met for several FY24 Budget workshops and made decisions to delete items, as well as increasing Capital Reserve Funds.

Review of Budget Ordinance Fees include the following increases.

- Increase minimum water billing from \$40 to \$42 per month.
- Adjust water rate tiers to the following:

Minimum bill – 3,000 gallons	\$42.00
Additional gallons	
3,001 to 4,500 gallons	\$.02/gal
4,501 to unlimited	\$.05/gal
Water bill for well users	\$15.00 (unchanged)
- Increase the Rezoning fee from \$500 to \$1,500.
- Increase Zoning Text Amendment from \$500 to \$1,000.
- Increase Fire Inspection fee from \$40.00 to \$50.00.
- Increase Notary Fee from \$5.00 to \$10.00.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Town Council of the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that the following anticipated fund revenues and departmental expenditures, together with certain fees and charge schedules, and with certain restrictions and authorizations, are hereby appropriated and approved for the operation of the Town government and its activities for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2023 and ending June 30, 2024.

REVENUE SUMMARY

General Fund	\$ 2,623,763
Enterprise Fund	\$ 978,740
Total	\$ 3,602,503

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY

General Fund	\$ 2,623,763
Enterprise Fund	\$ 978,740
Total	\$ 3,602,503

Section 1. General Fund

Anticipated Revenues By Category-

Ad Valorem Taxes	\$ 1,151,708
State Shared Revenue	\$ 144,360
ABC Distribution	\$ 180,000
Powell Bill Allocation	\$ 33,000
Permits, Fees, and Licenses	\$ 7,000
Sales Tax	\$ 215,000
Miscellaneous Revenues	\$ 146,020
Appropriated Fund Balance	\$ 209,214
Government Grants	\$ -
Sale of Assets	\$ 15,000
From Capital Reserve Fund	\$ 127,481
Occupancy Tax	\$ 385,000

Total **\$ 2,623,763**

Section 1. General Fund

Authorized Expenditures By Department-

Governing Board	\$ 43,160
Administrative	\$ 403,895
Public Safety	\$ 821,215
Fire Protection	\$ 76,013
Planning and Inspections	\$ 30,540
Public Works	\$ 637,182
Powell Bill	\$ 15,000
Tourism Development Authority	\$ 395,000
Parks & Recreation	\$ 201,858

Total **\$ 2,623,763**

Section 2. Enterprise Fund

Anticipated Revenues:

Grant Project Ordinance (ARP)	\$ 700,000
Water Operating Revenues	\$ 270,640
Water Taps and Connections	\$ 8,000
Non Operating Revenues	\$ 100
From Capital Reserve Fund	\$ -
Total	\$ 978,740

Section 2. Enterprise Fund

Authorized Expenditures:

Grant Project Ordinance (ARP)	\$ 700,000
Water-Operating	\$ 236,705
Non Operating	\$ 32,483
Capital Outlay	\$ -
Capital Reserve	\$ 8,558
Total	\$ 978,740

Public Comments

Margaret Clark - Inquired why the Town is increasing the water rates. Town Manager Harris stated by increasing in smaller incremental amounts, it is easier on the citizens and the goal is to begin saving for future water capital improvement needs.

Bob Bridges - Deepwood Ct- He thanked the Town Council for being fiscally conservative while providing necessary services for the FY24 budget. Bridges also commended Finance Officer Sappington for the 99.9% tax collection rate; the Town is fortunate to have her in this role.

CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to close the public hearing; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed.

RECESS

Member Sasse made a motion to recess the meeting; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting recessed at 5:15pm.

CALL TO ORDER FROM RECESS

Member Bonomo made a motion to open the meeting from recess at 5:30pm; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed.

CONSENT AGENDA

- (i) Minutes of Town Council meeting - May 9, 2023
- (ii) Minutes of Town Council FY24 Budget Workshop - May 10, 2023
- (iii) Minutes of Public Hearing & FY24 Budget Workshop May 24, 2023

Member Bonomo made a motion to approve the consent and adopt the minutes of the consent agenda; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tom Bookstaver - Gave a brief update on a recent medical call.

Bob Bridges - Reported TDA provided the basketball hoop at the Fire department.

Kay Lambert - The fire danger sign has been installed as recommended by the Public Safety Committee.

OLD BUSINESS- None

NEW BUSINESS

A. High Country ABC Board Appointment – Anne Fontaine

Member Sasse made a motion to appoint Anne Fontaine to the High Country ABC Board; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed. The term begins July 1, 2023. ~CLOSED~

B. Annual Operating Budget Ordinance FY24

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the Annual Operating Budget Ordinance FY24; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

C. Final Budget Amendment FY23

Member Williams made a motion to approve the Final Budget Amendment FY23; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

D. EMR Recognition

Mayor Fontaine spoke of the importance of the Seven Devils Fire Department Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) certification program and the benefit to the Town citizens. Under the direction of Fire Chief Millsaps, 6 members completed the 96-hour course and passed an exam. The following members were recognized:

Tom Bookstaver, Brad Lambert, Matthew Hayes, Marino Fernandez, Wayne Bonomo & Matt Millsaps. A reception will take place at the conclusion of tonight's meeting and the public is invited to attend.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Town Manager Harris provided the administrative update on the following:

- Both PRV's have been installed by Public Works and are working properly.
- The CCR/Annual Drinking Water report is online and available at the Town Clerk's office.
- Town Council Candidate filing dates begin at noon – July 7th until noon – July 21st.
- Voter ID will be required to vote in the Municipal elections.
- Staff were treated to lunch by donations from citizens.
- Parks & Recreation meeting – June 15th – 9:00am
- Planning Board meeting – June 20th – 5:30pm
- TDA meeting – 9:00am and Board of Adjustment meeting – 5:30pm on June 27th
- Independence Day BBQ at 7D Community Center – June 30th – Noon to 2:00pm
- PARTF Representative made a site visit & approval as a step in the grant process; PARTF awards will be announced in Raleigh – August 11th.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – No meeting

Public Works Committee – No meeting

Public Safety Committee – June minutes

Parks & Recreation Committee – May minutes

Tree Board – No meeting

TDA – May minutes

ABC Board – April/May minutes & Proposed FY23-24 Budget – Anne Fontaine announced Board member Donna Dicks retirement.

Police Report

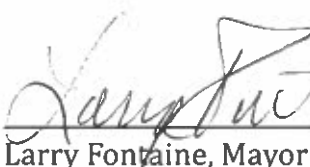
Fire Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mayor Fontaine shared good news. Lowes Home Improvement in Banner Elk has a commercial ice maker that was an unclaimed special order and Citizen Danny Brock, an employee of the store arranged for it to be donated to the Seven Devils Fire Department.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:50pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor




Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk