

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, October 10, 2023 at Town Hall. Attendance included: Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, and Council Member Wayne Bonomo. Council Members Leigh Sasse and Jeffrey Williams were absent. Staff included: Town Manager Johnathan Harris, Finance Officer Helga Sappington, Town Attorney Rob Angle; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Invocation for the 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 5:32pm.

AMEND AGENDA

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to amend the agenda and add New Business Item D. FY24 Mid-year Review; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed.

ADOPT MINUTES

Town Council Meeting Minutes of September 12, 2023 - Member Bonomo made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Fred Dorman – 195 Black Hawk Drive- Stated that he's paid his \$2,400 tax bill and the collective total taxes for Blair Mountain exceeds \$12,000. He requests the Town to provide maintenance on the private roads in Blair Mountain, including grading, gravel, and plowing.

Sarah Manning – 277 Four Diamond Drive – Spoke positively about the new fencing at the stables.

Tom Bookstaver – 231 Snowcloud Drive – Thanked the Hawkspeak Condo for allowing the Seven Devils Fire Department to conduct hose testing.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

A. FY23 Town Audit Presentation – Misty Watson, CPA

The Town Audit FY23 was presented by Misty Watson, CPA; hard copies of the audit were provided to the Town Council and is available for inspection at Town Hall; a pdf is posted at www.SevenDevilsNC.gov

Audit highlights as noted by Misty Watson as follows:

- Auditors unmodified opinion and the staff has been cooperative.
- General Fund decreased \$240,519
- Nonmajor Special Revenue Fund decreased \$34,419
- Water Enterprise Fund decreased \$6,667
- No red flags
- Timely audit submission
- Stable property tax valuation and collection
- No material weakness or deficiency
- Fund Balance Available as a % of Expenditures = 31.91% - Explanations to be provided to the Local Government Commission (LGC) include purchase of 5 police vehicles, purchase and installation of additional water meters, grant funds, completion of two (2) paving projects and completion of park project.

~NO ACTION TAKEN~

B. Water Use Ordinance – Amend Article 4

Amendments to the Water Use Ordinance at Article 4 include:

Addition - 4.1 Application for Service

5) *All new applications must provide an emergency contact number that can respond to the residence within 24 hours.*

Edit – 4.4 Adjustments

3) *Any water account which is charged for consumption over the monthly allotted gallons in any month due to a verified and subsequently repaired leak, as evidenced by repair receipts, is eligible to be considered for an adjustment when requested by the owner, provided the account holder installs a private cut-off valve on the customer's side of the meter (within two (2) feet of the water meter) that shall be protected from the elements in a suitable manner. The adjustment will reflect the rate billed for first tier usage. Adjustments will be limited to once during the current fiscal year in the highest month of usage. Minimum billing and tier rates are established in the Annual Operating Budget Ordinance.*

Member Bonomo made a motion to approve the language amendments for the Water Use Ordinance; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed. **~CLOSED~**

C. New Seven Devils Website Presentation – WWW.SevenDevilsNC.gov

Town Clerk Gropp made a presentation on the updated domain name and new website, highlighting features that allow for better citizen engagement. **~NO ACTION TAKEN~**

D. FY24 Mid-year Review

The Town Council scheduled a FY24 Mid-year Budget Review to be held on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:00am-2:00pm. Town Clerk Gropp to amend the Town calendar.

Member Bonomo made a motion to amend the Town calendar; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed. **~CLOSED~**

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Town Manager Harris provided the administrative update:

- The first Powell Bill installment of \$16,231.13 has been received.
- Watauga County Economic Development Commission (EDC) will hold their monthly meeting at Seven Devils Town Hall on October 19th.
- The Meet the Candidate Forum will be Thursday, October 26th at 5:30pm; submit questions by October 20th to the Town Clerk.
- Board/Committee applications deadline is October 30th.
- Seven Devils Spooky Trunk or Treat is Monday, October 31st from 5pm-7pm.
- Fall events rack cards are now available at Town Hall & Community Center.
- Parks & Recreation Committee meeting on October 12th at 9:00am.
- TDA meeting will be held on October 24th at 9:00am.
- Public Safety Committee meeting to be held November 7th at the Community Center.
- FY24 Mid-Year Review scheduled for Wednesday, December 6th from 10am-2pm.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – No meeting

Public Works Committee – No meeting

Public Safety Committee – October minutes

Parks & Recreation Committee – September minutes

TDA – September minutes

ABC Board

Tree Committee – No meeting

Police Report


Fire Report

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS - None

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

