

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2023  
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at Town Hall. Attendance included: Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, and Council Members Wayne Bonomo, Leigh Sasse and Jeffrey Williams.  
Staff included: Town Manager Johnathan Harris, 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.

**ADOPT AGENDA**

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

**ADOPT MINUTES**

**Town Council Meeting Minutes of October 10, 2023** - Member Williams made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed.

**CITIZENS COMMENTS**

**Mary Ballinger – 526 Buckeye Lane** – Commented on the new website, that it lacks email receipt to the sender and is not mobile friendly; also continues to protest the new H2O rates, effective July 1, 2023.

**Sunny Hand – 160 Snowcloud Drive** – Stated she could not locate the Lite the Nite on new website calendar to provide an RSVP.

*Town Clerk Gropp to follow up on website concerns.*

**Tom Bookstaver – 231 Snowcloud Drive** – Offered a thank you to: Bobbye Hurlbrink for donation of safety lancet, Brad Lambert for donation of clipboard and Seven Devils Fire Department for assistance with recent vehicle collision. He also reminded citizens to clean fireplaces & firepits and change batteries in smoke detectors.

**OLD BUSINESS - None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. FY24 Budget Amendment #1**

**Budget Amendment #1 – FY24**

**Purpose:** to correct an overestimation of Ad Valorem property taxes and to account for unbudgeted Sales and Use Tax Refund.

**Decrease:** Current Year Taxes – 10-301-87 - \$24,296

**Increase:** State SALES TAX Receivable – 10-370-01 - \$15,677  
County SALES TAX Receivable – 10-370-02 - \$6,654  
Food TAX Receivable – 10-370-03 - \$92  
Fund Balance Appropriated - \$1,873

**NOTES:** This amendment will correct the estimated Current Year Taxes that were calculated off the preliminary values that were available during the Budget process. The tax scroll that became available in September lowered the tax revenue by \$24,296. This will be offset by the unbudgeted Sales and Use Tax Refund of \$22,423, with the remaining \$1,873 coming from the Fund Balance.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve FY24 Budget Amendment #1; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

## **B. Employee Christmas Bonus**

The Town Council discussed Christmas bonuses for employees; \$600 for full-time employees and prorated for part-time employees.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve the employee bonus; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Town Manager Harris provided the administrative update:

- The Town has been awarded a \$500,000 PARTF Grant for improvements to The Park at Seven Devils.
- The Fire department had 2 more members attend and pass the NC State EMR training. They will soon take their exam.
- The Sales & Use tax refund of \$23, 238.74 has been received.
- The NC State Treasurer Annual Financial Report was submitted in October.
- Trunk or Treat Recap – 7 participants & 148 guests.
- Lite the Nite is scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm – RSVP by November 21<sup>st</sup>.
- The Annual Holiday Food Drive dates are November 25<sup>th</sup> to December 11<sup>th</sup>; Donations will benefit Avery Feeding Families and local food bank.
- The Parks and Recreation Committee meeting will be held November 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
- The Public Works Committee will meet on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am.
- The Planning Board meeting will be held on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 5:30pm. The Planning Board will review the Town's CLUP.
- The TDA meeting will be held on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am.
- The Board of Adjustment will meet on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Board of Adjustment** – No meeting

**Planning Board** – No meeting

**Public Works Committee** – No meeting

**Public Safety Committee** – November minutes

**Parks & Recreation Committee** – October minutes

**TDA** – October minutes

**ABC Board** – September minutes – *ABC stores will be closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day. Town Manager Harris will follow up about the ABC Audit presentation at a future meeting.*

**Tree Committee** – No meeting

**Police Report**

**Fire Report**

**Financial Report**

## **COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Member Sasse thanked all candidates in the recent Municipal Elections.

Mayor Fontaine thanked the citizens who voted in the recent Municipal Elections. He appreciated the comments and dialogue that has occurred with citizens.


Mayor Fontaine also thanked Member Jeffrey Williams for his 4 years of service on the Town Council.

Mayor Fontaine provided an update that NC Representative Ray Pickett – Watauga County will request funds for the Town of Seven Devils for future water/public works projects. The Public Works Committee will meet to discuss the priorities for this request. Additionally, the NC Representative – Avery County will request funds for the Fire Department needs.

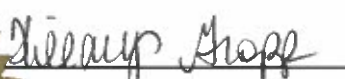
## **ADJOURN**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Sasse seconded the motion.

All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.

  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor



  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk