

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 11, 2018
5:30pm**

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 at Town Hall. Present were Larry Fontaine, Brad Lambert, Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig and Tina Bailey; A quorum was met. Also present were Town Attorney Rob Angle, Town Manager Debbie Powers; The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

PRAYER/INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Prayer/Invocation for tonight's meeting.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Mayor Fontaine made a motion to amend the Agenda:

Add 7) NEW BUSINESS B. Declaration of State of Emergency

Add Closed Session, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6) to follow COUNCIL COMMENTS;

Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – August 14, 2018.

Member Ehmig made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS – NONE

NEW BUSINESS

7) A. AUDIT REPORT FY18 -The Town Audit Report FY18 was presented by Sharon Gillespie, CPA with Young, Miller & Gillespie, P.A.; hard copies of this audit were provided to the Town Council and a PDF version is available online at www.sevendevils.net.

The Town passed the audit with positive reviews and some of the highlights that Sharon pointed out were as follows:

Page 5 – Opinion paragraph

Page 8 – Management's Discussion & Analysis (Financial Highlights)

Page 18 - Net Position

Page - 19 Statement Activity (Profit/Loss)

Page 20 – Balance Sheet (Governmental Fund Balance)

Page 21 – Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, Changes in Fund Balance; Sharon noted the \$45,094 positive due to increased Occupancy Tax and additional ABC distribution.


Page 25 – Proprietary Funds

Page 58 – Current Tax Levy

Sharon reports the tax collection rate is 99.7% which is commendable and higher than FY17; overall the Town is in excellent condition; Administration is organized and helps expedite the process.

No Action Taken ~CLOSED~

B. DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

<p>TOWN MANAGER <i>Dobbie Powers, MSBA, CZO</i></p> <p>TOWN FINANCE OFFICER <i>Helga Susington</i></p> <p>TOWN CLERK <i>Hillary Gropp</i></p>	 <p>TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS</p>	<p>TOWN COUNCIL</p> <p>MAYOR - <i>Larry Fontaine</i> MAYOR PRO-TEM - <i>Brad Lambert</i> <i>Tina Bailey</i> <i>Kay Ehlinger</i> <i>David Ehlers</i></p>
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DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, Hurricane Florence; and

WHEREAS, as a result of the above-described disaster, I have determined that there is an imminent threat of, or existing conditions have caused or will cause, widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property, and public safety authorities will be unable to maintain public order or afford adequate protection for lives or property; and

WHEREAS, declaring a State of Emergency and imposing the restrictions and prohibitions ordered herein is necessary to maintain order and protect public health, safety, and welfare, and to secure property.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as the Mayor of the Town of Seven Devils, under Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the North Carolina General Statutes and Code of Ordinances:

Section 1. A State of Emergency is hereby declared within the jurisdiction of the Town of Seven Devils.

Section 2. The emergency area covered by this state of emergency shall be Town Limits, as defined by the Zoning Map dated April 10, 2018.

A. Evacuation: Voluntary, unless deemed mandatory by the Watauga County Emergency Manager, excluding essential personnel, such as Public Safety Officers and Public Works personnel.

B. Curfew: Dates to be determined by the Police Chief, and times to include dusk to dawn, excluding essential personnel.

C. Restricted Access: Areas to be determined by the Police Chief.

D. Business Operations: Business limitations to be determined by the Police Chief, such as hours of operation.

E. Alcohol: N/A

F. Dangerous Weapons & Gasoline: Except for lawfully possessed firearms (handgun, rifle, or shotgun) and ammunition; restrictions to be determined by the Police Chief. Gasoline may be transported in acceptable storage containers.

G. Other: Emergency Shelter may be declared to be opened by the Mayor, Town Manager, or Police Chief, in accordance with the Shelter Manager for the Red Cross.

Section 4. I hereby order all Town law enforcement officers and employees and all other emergency management personnel subject to our control to cooperate in the enforcement and implementation of the provisions of this Declaration, all applicable local ordinances, state and federal laws, and the Town of Seven Devils and Watauga County Emergency Operations Plan.

Section 5. I hereby order this declaration: (a) to be distributed to the news media and other organizations calculated to bring its contents to the attention of the general public; (b) to be filed with Clerk to the Town of Seven Devils and (c) to be distributed to others as necessary to ensure proper implementation of this declaration.

Section 6. This declaration shall take effect on September 11, 2018 at 5:30pm and shall remain in effect until modified or rescinded.

DECLARED this the 11th day of September, 2018
at 5:30 pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor

ATTEST:


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk



Mayor Fontaine announced the cancellation of "The Hawk" 7K @ 7D scheduled for Saturday September 15, 2018, due to the State of Emergency for the Town.

No Action Taken ~CLOSED~

CITIZENS COMMENT-NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

The High-Country Council of Governments held the Annual Banquet on September 7th; Mayor Larry Fontaine was awarded the Outstanding Executive Board Member.

The Public Works Department purchased a tire changer/wheel balancer with PBSF funds.

Fire Chief Powell secured a federal fire grant of \$58,000 for a fire bay exhaust system and Town Hall fire alarm system.

The Town's paving projects have been completed during the last week of August.

Initial testing for email billing for water accounts has been successful.

The Skyline Building has been added to the Town's tax scrolls.

Next HCMA Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 18th; Seven Devils is hosting.

All summer recreational activities have been well attended with great turnout.

The Autumn ECHO newsletter is now available.

Bid opening for the Otter Falls parking expansion will occur on September 13th @ 2:00pm.

The Board & Committee application is revised and available in October for those interested in serving or continuing to serve. All expiring terms will need to complete an application.

As of July 1, 2017, the Town population is 218 (-1) as provided by OSBM.

Grant application follow-up; the Town was not the recipient for applied grants.

RTP award \$1.4 million to 14 top applications; 7D was #15 on the list.

PARTF awarded \$6.8 million to 27 applicants; 7D was not awarded.

An update was provided on tree permits, projects, fence permits, complaints and real estate closings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – No meeting

Public Works – No meeting

Public Safety Commission – No meeting

Recreation Commission – August minutes

TDA – August minutes

ABC Board – July minutes

Tree Committee – No meeting

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

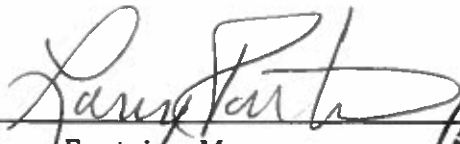
Member Ehmig asked for an accounting of 2018 SafetyFest from Mayor Pro Tem Lambert stating the importance of transparency.

CLOSED SESSION -

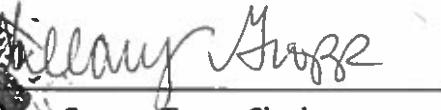
The Town Council went into Closed Session Pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(6) at 6:35pm; The Town Council came out of Closed Session at 7:35pm.

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:36pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor




Kelly Gropp, Town Clerk