

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

November 14, 2017

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Council Members Kay Ehlinger, David Ehmig and David Hooper. Mayor Larry Fontaine was absent; a quorum was present. Also present were Town Attorney Rob Angle and Town Manager Debbie Powers, the minutes were recorded by Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Hooper made a motion to adopt the agenda. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – OCTOBER 10, 2017

**Town Clerk Gropp noted an error in the submitted draft minutes of October 10, 2017; a correction will be made to reflect the Town Council Meeting Adjourned.*

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the Amended Minutes. Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS – NONE

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

Town Hall will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 23rd & 24th, for Thanksgiving.

The “Lite up the Night” celebration will begin at 6:00pm on Friday, December 1st at Town Hall; a covered dish dinner will follow. Turkey & Ham will be provided by the TDA and Recreation Commission. A new display will be revealed at the lighting.

The Unofficial Election results from November 7, 2017 have announced Tina Bailey (63), Brad Lambert (51) and Kay Ehlinger (40) as the winners of the 3 Town Council seats. Tina Bailey and Brad Lambert will serve a 4-year term, while Kay Ehlinger will serve a 2-year

term. The Election Board has until November 17th to canvass and then declare the Official results.

The new 2017 Ford Explorer for the Police Department has arrived; the purchase total is \$31,800, coming in under the budget of \$35,000; the vehicle will need to be outfitted.

The Recreation Commission enjoyed an end of season wrap up party on October 12, 2017. 27 participants logged 12,095 miles for the activity challenge during the summer months.

The High-Country Realtor report for July – September indicates 659 sales, which is up 2.2% compared to 2016. Average sales price for the 3rd quarter is \$258,645 and 2017 is \$253,628. Inventory is declining, and this September is busiest in 10 years.

NC DOT Pedestrian Plan Grant application was completed and submitted on October 20th.

The Board of Adjustment met on October 24th, to consider a Variance Application for the Bridges Residence at 147 Deepwood Court. The Variance was granted by the BOA. During this meeting, George Ehlinger was elected Chair; Jack Duncan was elected Vice Chair. All BOA members received the 2017 edition of the Quasi-Judicial Handbook by the UNC SOG.

On October 23rd, a severe storm occurred with 5.25" of rain in less than a 24-hour period. No serious issues were reported in the Town, other than a clogged street drainage culvert. The Town of Beech Mountain aided with a sewer truck to clear the drainage culvert.

Operation Medicine Cabinet was recently held on October 28th at Foscoe Fire Department; 6000 pills were collected during this event.

Manager Powers shared the Fearless Forecast for Winter 2017-2017 by Ray's Weather. Predictions are for less snow and slightly high temperatures.

Manager Powers provided an update about Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints, Real Estate Closings.

OLD BUSINESS- NONE

NEW BUSINESS

8)A. APPROVE BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The following is a list of Board & Committee Appointments for 2018 with term details. No discussion occurred. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert asked for review and approval of all with a single motion.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS FOR 2018

Board of Adjustment

Expiring Term

George Ehlinger on 1/1/2018
Barbara Hurlbrink on 1/1/2018

Application for Reappointment

George Ehlinger 3 Year Term until 1/1/2021
Barbara Hurlbrink 3 Year Term until 1/1/2021

Planning Board

Expiring Term

Bob Haugh on 1/1/2018
George Ehlinger on 1/1/2018

Application for Reappointment

Bob Haugh 2 Year Term until 1/1/2020
George Ehlinger 2 Year Term until 1/1/2020

Public Works Committee

Expiring Term

George Ehlinger on 1/1/2018

Application for Reappointment

George Ehlinger 3 Year Term until 1/1/2021

Recreation Commission

Expiring Term

Bob Bridges on 1/1/2018
Leigh Sasse on 1/1/2018

Application for Reappointment

Bob Bridges 3 Year Term until 1/1/2021
No Reappointment needed as all seats filled

Tourism Development Authority

Expiring Term

Tom Gidley on 1/1/2018

Application for Reappointment

Tom Gidley 2 Year Term until 1/1/2020

Member Hooper made a motion to approve all Board & Committee Appointments; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

8)B. SPILLER CONSULTING RESULTS

Manager Powers explained this report was provided by Spiller Consulting, as they provided an audit of Blue Ridge Energy & Skyline utility billing to Seven Devils and payments by the Town for these services. The conclusion included the following statement "Our review of the above accounts verified that all of the listed services at the Town of Seven Devils are billing correctly and cost effectively. This is a reflection of the billing by the providers and also the excellent job the staff at Seven Devils has done in the implementation and monitoring of these accounts."

There were no costs associated to the Town with this audit by Spiller Consulting, since no overages were found in the audit. ~CLOSED~

8)C. CHRISTMAS BONUS REQUEST

Manager Powers requests the Town Council grant a Christmas bonus to all employees; \$350.00 for ongoing employees and \$100.00 for employees with less than 1-year employment. The total is \$4,400.00 and is included the budget.

Member Ehmig made a motion to approve the Christmas Bonus Request; Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

8)D. EMPLOYEE CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

On Wednesday, December 6th at 11:30am the Town Staff will have a luncheon at Makoto's Restaurant in Boone. RSVP's from Town Council are requested by Monday, December 4th to the Town Clerk. ~CLOSED~

8)E. UNC SOG TRAINING SCHEDULE

UNC School of Government will be holding a 2-day workshop for Local Elected Officials and includes a segment on Ethics Training; locations include Asheville or Hickory. Later in the calendar year the UNC SOG will also offer a webinar. It is recommended that newly elected Town Council member, Tina Bailey attend a workshop in person. Manager Powers asked for Town Council members to review and let her know their preference for acquiring this requirement, so the Town can plan accordingly with payments and hotel reservations.

~CLOSED~

8)F. RESOLUTION #2017-06

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert read the following resolution:



**RESOLUTION #2017-06
APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE FOR SERVICE
DAVID HOOPER**

WHEREAS, David Hooper has served the citizens of Seven Devils as an elected official on the Town Council from 2012 to 2017, as Chairperson & Member of the Planning Board from 2004 to 2010, and Volunteer Fire Department from 2002 to 2012, has served as a public servant of integrity, supporting that which he believed to be in the best interest of the citizens of his community; and

WHEREAS, David Hooper has shown dedication by providing sound judgement and reason, while serving as Chairperson of the Planning Board, and contributing to the creation of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO), Comprehensive Land Use, Nuisance Ordinance, Long & Short-term Capital Improvement Projects, and endorsing the Tree Protection Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, David Hooper has proven to be a watchdog for environmental concerns in the region, providing updates on the Watauga River, Wireless Technology and Energy; and

WHEREAS, David Hooper has served as the Town Appointee for Avery County Comprehensive Transportation Plan; and

WHEREAS, citizens have benefitted from David Hooper's dedication to Seven Devils, and his dedication will benefit this community in the future;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council for the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that it expresses to you, David Hooper, on behalf of itself and other citizens and officials, appreciation for your dedication and contributions rendered as a member of the Town Council and Chairperson and Member of the Planning Board, and urges all citizens to join in extending appreciation for your service to the people of Seven Devils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer you our very best wishes for success, happiness and good health in all your future endeavors.

Approved this 14th day of November 2017.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Brad Lambert, Mayor Pro Tem


Kay Ehlinger, Member


David Ehmig, Member

Additionally, an award was presented to David Hooper as a memento for his years of service to the Town of Seven Devils. A reception will follow tonight's meeting. ~CLOSED~

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment-October Minutes

Planning Board—No October Meeting

Public Works—No October Meeting

Public Safety Committee—No October Meeting

Recreation Commission – October Minutes

TDA – October Minutes

ABC Board – September & October Minutes

Member Ehmig noted the \$10,000 bonus provided to the Town by the ABC Board during the October Town Council meeting; the total to date provided to the Town is \$95,000, which includes the bonus.

Tree Committee – No October Meeting

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert noted the 44% of Occupancy Tax collected, which exceeds the 33% expected collection rate; this is a \$10,000 increase in terms of dollars. These funds go to the TDA. Congratulations to the Finance Officer, Helga Sappington.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Hooper asked for confirmation for the date when his term on the Town Council expires. It was explained the Oath of Office will be administered at the December Town Council meeting. Member Hooper’s attendance at this meeting is optional.

ADIJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn. Member Hooper seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.

R. B. Lambert

Brad Lambert
Mayor Pro Tem

Hillary Gropp

Hillary Gropp
Town Clerk

