

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS  
PUBLIC HEARING & TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**June 13, 2017**

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a Public Hearing for the Budget Ordinance FY18 on Tuesday, June 13, 2017, at 5:00PM and in a Regular Meeting at 5:30PM at Town Hall. Present at the Public Hearing were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert and Council Member Kay Ehlinger; A quorum was present. Council Members David Ehmig and David Hooper were absent. Manager Debbie Powers was present; Town Attorney Rob Angle joined at the Regular Meeting; the minutes were recorded by Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fontaine explained the rules of a Public Hearing and then asked for a motion to open the Public Hearing.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert called to open the Public Hearing at 5:05PM. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING – BUDGET ORDINANCE FY18**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Bob Bridges-147 **Deepwood Court**; The FY2018 budget is \$100,000 less than FY2017, and this amount is from the Public Works line item. What caused the decrease? Manager Powers explained that FY17 included the dump truck purchase and maintenance building renovations. Capital reserves covered the Skyland Drive water project during the year. He inquired if taxes will increase; Manager Powers reports taxes will not increase in the foreseeable future.

**CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

**RECESS**

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to recess. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. Council went into recess at 5:20PM.

### **CALL TO ORDER FROM RECESS – 5:30PM**

Mayor Fontaine asked for a motion to come out of recess. Mayor Pro Tem made a motion to come out of recess. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

### **ADOPT AGENDA**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

#### **ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – MAY 9, 2017**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Kay Lambert – **430 Wildcat Rocks Road**; announced the upcoming SafetyFest on July 1, 2017 and additional volunteers needed; thanked Public Works Department for their assistance with banners and other help.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

Manager Powers provided the following update:

NC DOT mowing agreement has been signed and the term is 5 years.

Additional training on the handheld water reader by HD Supply for Public Works and Hillary Gropp.

Manager Powers met with Terry Fox for the State Flood Plain Audit on May 15, 2017. Audit focus was on Aldridge Road property, located on the Watauga River. Conversation occurred on the current status of Aldridge Road property for the Sewer Treatment Plant.

Town Clerk Hillary Gropp attended a workshop on Public Records retention on May 31, 2017.

Residents and staff have been involved in the letter writing campaign to Verizon to improve cellphone service by piggybacking on the existing cell tower in Seven Devils.

Bobby Powell has been awarded a State Fire Grant for \$60,000 (50/50); \$7,500 was paid back to FEMA for a 2014-2015 grant.

RTP Grant – HC COG successfully wrote a grant request and Seven Devils will continue to the next step in the grant process; Peak Mountain Trail/Extension of Otter Falls Trail is the title of the grant. The next activity includes mandatory environmental review and biological assessment with a deadline of July 14, 2017.

Mayor Larry Fontaine attended the Resort Towns meeting in Raleigh, NC.

Support letters for “Bark for Your Park” grant ready for signature by Town Council members; a support list with signatures is being circulated for residents.

Support letters for the RTP grant for Peak Mountain Trail are ready for public signatures.

Manager Powers provided an update on Tree Permits, Projects, Complaints, and Real Estate Closings

The Consumer Confidence Report 2016 is available on the Seven Devils website and at Town Hall.

The Fire Department Annual Appreciation dinner was held in May. Lunch was provided by resident Phyllis Meeks to the Police Department for Police Appreciation week.

### **OLD BUSINESS – NONE**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **AGENDA 12) A. BUDGET ORDINANCE ADDITIONS:**

##### **DEVELOPMENT FEES**

Town Engineer Fees \$1,000.00

##### **OTHER FEES**

High Weeds or Grass \$50.00 + cost of cutting

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve the Budget Ordinance. Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~**CLOSED**~

#### **AGENDA 12) B. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve the Budget Amendment. Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~**CLOSED**~

**AGENDA 12) C. BLUE RIDGE CONSERVANCY ANNEXATION**

**(i)** Petition for Annexation – The Town Council reviewed the petition. The Town Attorney reviewed the petition and gives approval.

**(ii)** Mayor Fontaine read Resolution #2017-03:

**Resolution #2017-03**

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE  
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160a-31

**WHEREAS**, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on May 17, 2017 by the Blue Ridge Conservancy; and

**WHEREAS**, G.S. 160A-31 provides that the sufficiency of the petition shall be investigated by the Town Clerk before further annexation proceedings may take place; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina deems it advisable to proceed in response to this request for annexation;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina that the Town Clerk is hereby directed to investigate the sufficiency of the above described petition and to certify as soon as possible to the Town Council of Seven Devils, North Carolina the result of her investigation.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Mayor Pro Tem made the motion to approve; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion; the members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

**(iii)** The Town Clerk read the Certificate of Sufficiency:

**CERTIFICATE OF SUFFICIENCY**

To the **Town Council** of the **Town of Seven Devils** of **Seven Devils, North Carolina**:

I, **Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk**, do hereby certify that I have investigated the attached petition and hereby make the following findings:

- a. The petition contains an adequate property description of the area proposed for annexation.
- b. The area described in the petition is contiguous to the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina primary corporate limits, as defined by G.S. 160A-31.
- c. The petition is signed by and includes the addresses of all owners of real property lying in the area described therein:

**Blue Ridge Conservancy**  
**P.O. Box 568**  
**Boone, NC 28607**  
**828-264-2511**  
**Eric Hiegl**  
**Interim Executive Director**  
**Watauga County PIN#1878-14-3193-000**  
**Watauga County PIN#1868-82-6529-000**

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Town of Seven Devils, NC this 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

(SEAL)

**(iv) Mayor Fontaine read Resolution #2017-04  
Resolution #2017-04**

**RESOLUTION FIXING DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON QUESTION  
OF ANNEXATION PURSUANT TO G.S. 160A-31**

**WHEREAS**, a petition requesting annexation of the area described herein has been received; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town Council of Seven Devils, North Carolina has by resolution directed the Town Clerk to investigate the sufficiency of the petition; and

**WHEREAS**, certification by the Town Clerk as to the sufficiency of the petition has been made;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Town Council of the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, that:  
Section 1. A public hearing on the question of annexation of the area described herein will be held at Town Hall at 5:00pm on Tuesday, July 11, 2017.

Section 2. The area proposed for annexation is described below:

**SEE ATTACHED MAP**

Section 3. Notice of the public hearing shall be published in the Watauga Democrat, a newspaper having general circulation in the Town of Seven Devils, North Carolina, at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the public hearing.

This the 13<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017.

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Fontaine, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

Member Ehlinger made the motion to approve; Mayor Pro Tem seconded the motion; the members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

**AGENDA 12) D. AIR MED CARE**

Discussion occurred about the services/plan of Air Med Care. The Town Council approved this as a benefit to the Employees, Council Members, Town Attorney and Volunteer Fire Fighters for a total of 26 slots for the insurance. The cost is \$4,290.00 with coverage effective July 1, 2017.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion; the members agreed unanimously. **~CLOSED~**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Planning Board** – No May meeting

**Public Works** – No May meeting

**Public Safety Committee**

**Recreation Commission**

**TDA**

**ABC Board**

**Tree Committee**

**Public Safety Department  
Police Report  
Fire Report**

**COUNCIL COMMENTS- NONE**

**ADJOURN**

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:20PM.

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Larry Fontaine, Mayor

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Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk