

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TUESDAY, MAY 9, 2023
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING – 5:30pm

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, May 9, 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 5:31pm.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

ADOPT MINUTES

Town Council Meeting Minutes of April 11, 2023 - Member Sasse noted Scrivener's error and requested a correction in the minutes. Member Williams made a motion to approve and adopt the amended minutes; Member Sasse seconded the motion. All members agreed.

Town Council Annual Workshop Minutes of April 26, 2023 – Member Williams made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Member Sasse seconded. All members agreed.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Tom Bookstaver – Snowcloud Drive – Noted an error with the Fire Report; Town Manager Harris will follow up with Fire Chief to edit to include (1) one smoke/false alarm call.

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

A. 2023 Municipal Elections Site

Town Manager Harris has spoken with Matt Snyder, Director of Watauga County Board of Elections (BOE) about the upcoming Municipal Elections and voting site options for the Town. Voting on election day could take place at Town Hall or the Seven Devils Community Center. The BOE prefers the Community Center. The Town Council agreed, and Town Manager Harris will follow up with BOE. **~No Action Taken~**

B. EMR Recognition

Mayor Fontaine shared good news about the achievement of six members of the Seven Devils Volunteer Fire Department with EMR Certification. A reception will be held following the June 13th Town Council meeting to honor these citizens and staff.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Town Manager Harris provided the administrative update:

- The PARTF Grant has been submitted; should learn result in late summer/early fall.
- Electrical lines have been buried in The Park at Seven Devils, allowing for a helipad.
- Exercise equipment has been repaired at the Seven Devils Community Center.
- Landscaping is complete at The Park at Seven Devils.
- Town Clerk Gropp attended High Country Clerks Gathering.
- Police Department staff attended a New Certification Workshop to learn about the changes to the Law Enforcement certification process.

- The Volunteer Fire Department added two new members.
- All Volunteer Fire Department members that attended EMR training have passed the state certification.
- Arbor Day Celebration – 82 attendees and it was a great successful event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – April draft minutes

Planning Board – April draft minutes

Public Works Committee – April minutes

Public Safety Committee - None

Parks & Recreation Committee – April minutes

TDA – May 4, 2023 minutes

ABC Board

Tree Committee - None

Police Report

Fire Report

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Sasse commented about the recent Board of Adjustment decision to issue a Special Use Permit for an alpine coaster at Hawksnest Snowtubing. She disagrees with the process of notifying only “parties with standing” and understands the NC General Statutes provide the steps but thinks the entire town should have been notified in the same manner as a rezoning request.

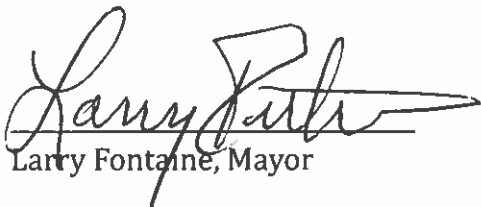
Mayor Fontaine commented about the upcoming municipal elections and the significant costs to a small town such as Seven Devils; this expense is included in the FY24 budget.

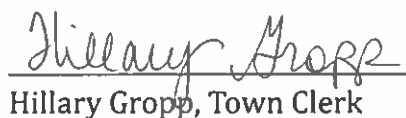
Mayor Fontaine spoke about pending SB317/HB562 and how this is proposed as Workforce Housing but will strip local government of local zoning and control. Town Manager Harris to follow up with a resolution to oppose this.

Mayor Fontaine asked Town Manager Harris for an update on the broken webcam at the Seven Devils Community Center. No repairs have been scheduled yet. Town Manager Harris will follow up with other companies regarding repair options.

ADJOURN

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adjourn; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting was adjourned at 6:14pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

