

MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL
Regular Meeting
April 23, 2024

THE WAYNESVILLE TOWN COUNCIL held a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, at 6:00pm in the Town Hall Board Room located at 9 South Main Street Waynesville, NC.

A. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gary Caldwell called the meeting to order at 6:04 pm with the following members present:

Mayor Gary Caldwell
Councilmember Jon Feichter
Councilmember Anthony Sutton
Councilmember Julia Freeman

The following staff members were present:

Rob Hites, Town Manager
Jesse Fowler, Assistant Town Manager
Candace Poolton, Town Clerk
Town Attorney Martha Bradley
Elizabeth Teague, Director of Development
Taylor Garland, Assistant Finance Director
Police Chief David Adams
Assistant Chief of Police, Brandon Gilmore

Members of the Media:

Paul Nielson, The Mountaineer

1. Welcome/Calendar/Announcements

Mayor Gary Caldwell welcomed everyone and announced that the next Town Council meeting will be held on May 14th and the Whole Bloomin Thing Festival will be on Saturday, May 11th in Frog Level. Mayor Caldwell commended Alex McKay and Beth Gilmore for the success of Appalachian Heritage Festival this weekend.

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

Joey Del Bosque-Mr. Del Bosque spoke in favor of the proposed noise ordinance update that would require golf courses to adhere to the same rules as everyone else in town: Lawn equipment may not be operated earlier than 7am. He said he lives adjacent to the Country Club and has dealt with serious noise issues that have affected his well-being as early as 5am.

C. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to move item E.(3):Final Mural Concept for the Pigeon Community Multicultural Development Center (PCMDC) to the May 14th, 2024 Council meeting and to add to that meeting’s agenda to review the members of the Planning Board’s attendance and the removal of Peggy Hannah. The motion passed unanimously.

D. CONSENT AGENDA

All items below are routine by the Town Council and will be enacted by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Councilmember so requests. In which event, the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered with other items listed in the Regular Agenda.

2.
 - a. Approve the April 9, 2024 Regular Scheduled Meeting Minutes
 - b. Approve the budget amendment for the Pigeon River Fund Grant (Fishing access area)
 - c. Call for a Public Hearing for May 14, 2024 to consider a text amendment related to general corrections and updates, including protest petitions, tree preservation, and definition of townhomes
 - d. Approval of the attached capital project ordinance amendment for the Walnut Street/Russ Avenue Improvements
 - e. Call for a Public Hearing for May 14, 2024 to consider amendments to the Town Charter and Code of Ordinances to reflect the change in the governing body’s name from “Board of Aldermen” to “Town Council” and adopt Resolution of Intent.
 - f. Call for Public Hearing on the 2024-25 Operating and Capital budget for 6:00 pm on Tuesday, May 28, 2024
 - g. Appoint Trey Peterson to the Waynesville Recreation Advisory Commission
 - i. Approve the Hazelwood Hot Summer Nights Special Event Permit
 - j. Approve the Return of the Gateway Arch Special Event Permit

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

E. PROCLAMATIONS

3. Child Abuse Prevention Month 2024
 - Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell invited Councilmember Sutton to read the Child Abuse Prevention Month proclamation.

4. Sexual Assault Awareness Month 2024
 - Mayor Gary Caldwell

Mayor Gary Caldwell invited Councilmember Freeman to read the proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Mayor Caldwell said that as the director of REACH, Councilmember Freeman does a fantastic job and thanked her for her important work.

F. NEW BUSINESS

5. Removal of Waynesville Housing Authority Board Member
 - Belinda Kahl, WHA Executive Director and Brian Cagle, Board Chairman

WHA Director, Belinda Kahl, recommended that Town Council remove Michael Loomis from the commission for failing to satisfy the Town's attendance policy as described in the Boards and Commissions manual. She said they spoke with Mr. Loomis, and he is okay with stepping down. Councilmember Sutton thanked him for his service.

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Freeman, to remove Michael Loomis from his seat on the Waynesville Housing Authority. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Request to apply for "COPS" grant.
 - Police Chief David Adams

Police Chief David Adams reported that the department has been made aware that the "COPS" program has been re-authorized, and Waynesville is eligible for funding of two new police officers. He said the new grant is a three-year grant that funds 75% of an officer's salary and after three years, the department is expected to retain the employees that were hired in the position.

Councilmember Freeman said that calling legislators in D.C. makes a difference in the application process. Chief Adams said contacting Congressman Edwards would help as well. Councilmember Sutton offered to speak with Senator Tillis.

A motion was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to approve the request to apply for "COPS" grant. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Amendment to the Code of Ordinances regarding the time lawn maintenance equipment may be used within the Town limits.
 - Rob Hites, Town Manager

Town Manager Rob Hites reported that Councilmembers received complaints regarding the use of lawn maintenance equipment at 6:00 am. He said the noise ordinance sets a 7:00 am starting time for lawn maintenance activity, but makes an exception for lawn maintenance equipment on golf courses. He said that residents have provided examples that such noise can be clearly heard within dwellings abutting the golf courses. He referenced the proposed amendment to Chapter 26, Section (10) deletes the exception for the use of lawn maintenance equipment on golf courses and establishes the same 7:00 am standard as that for lawn maintenance activity within the Town limits.

Councilmember Sutton stated that lawn equipment being operated at 6am is disruptive to the peaceful sleep of residents and is not conducive to the peaceful environment they want for their citizens. Councilmember Feichter agreed with Councilmember Sutton and referenced Mr. Del Bosque’s public comment that said the previous decision to allow 6am lawn care was made because only one person wanted it so. He suggested that if Council is going to change the ordinance, they should hold a public hearing so more than person can weigh in. Councilmember Sutton said he reached out to the two golf courses and they chose not to show up at tonight’s meeting.

A motion was made by Councilmember Freeman, seconded by Councilmember Sutton, to approve the 7am amendment to the noise ordinance, and that golf courses are held to the same standards as the rest of the residents in Waynesville. The motion passed unanimously.

G. COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF

8. Manager’s Report

- Town Manager, Rob Hites

Nothing to report.

9. Town Attorney Report

- Town Attorney, Martha Bradley

Nothing to report.

I. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Councilmember Freeman thanked Mayor Caldwell for the proclamations. Councilmember Feichter and Sutton thanked Councilmember Freeman for what she does with REACH. Mayor Caldwell reminded Council that the budget workshop was continued to Thursday, April 25th at 5pm in the Municipal Conference Room.

J. ADJOURN

A motion was made by Councilmember Sutton, seconded by Councilmember Feichter, to adjourn at 6:35pm. The motion passed unanimously.

ATTEST:

Gary Caldwell, Mayor

Robert W. Hites, Jr. Town Manager

Candace Poolton, Town Clerk