

TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 2021
5:30PM

The Seven Devils Town Council met for a Regular Meeting and the format of this meeting was dual format Electronic – Go To Meeting#385042877 and In-Person at Town Hall on Tuesday, January 12, 2021. Attendance In-Person included Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, & Member Wayne Bonomo. Members Jeffrey Williams & Leigh Sasse attended remotely with visible video display. Also present In-Person – Town Manager Debbie Powers & Town Attorney Rob Angle. The minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Invocation for the 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.

ROLL CALL

Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Members Bonomo, Sasse & Williams stated their name and announced their presence for the Roll Call.

ADOPT AGENDA

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

CONSENT AGENDA

**Adopt minutes of Town Council Meeting Budget Review FY21 – December 1, 2020
Public Hearings – Clevon Woods Annexation – December 7, 2020
Town Council Meeting – December 8, 2020**

Member Bonomo made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Member Williams seconded the motion. All members agreed.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Amendment #2 – FY21

Purpose: To amend the FY21 Budget, according to the Mid-Year Budget Review items, discussed and approved on December 1, 2020

Well House #2 and #4 repairs

Increase: From Capital Reserve...30-801-61..... \$14,168.

Increase: Capital Outlay.....30-810-74..... \$14,168.

Police Department Vehicle Purchase – 2021 Tahoe

Increase: From Capital Reserve....10-304-01...\$35,710.

Increase: Capital Outlay.....10-510-74.....\$35,710.

Staff Salary Increases:

Increase: Fund Balance Appropriation...10-304-01.....\$7,342.

Increase: Fund Balance Appropriation...30-299-00.....\$387.

Increase: Admin Salaries.....10-420-02.....\$1630.

Increase: Admin Payroll Tax.....10-420-05.....\$125.

Increase: Admin Benefits.....10-420-06.....\$334.

Increase: Police Salaries.....10-510-02.....\$2164.

Increase: Police Payroll Tax.....10-520-05.....\$165.
 Increase: Police Benefits.....10-510-06.....\$484.
 Increase: Parks & Rec Salary.....10-540-02.....\$250.
 Increase: Parks & Rec Payroll Tax.....10-540-05.....\$19.
 Increase: Parks & Rec Benefits.....10-540-06.....\$51.
 Increase: Public Works Salaries.....10-545-02.....\$1654.
 Increase: Public Works Payroll Tax.....10-545-05.....\$126.
 Increase: Public Works Benefits.....10-545-06.....\$340.
 Increase: Water Salaries.....30-810-02.....\$302.
 Increase: Water Payroll Tax.....30-810-05.....\$7.
 Increase: Water Benefits.....30-810-06.....\$78.

Thank you,

Debbie Powers

Town Manager/Budget Officer

Member Williams made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #2 – FY21; Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. ~CLOSED~

CITIZENS COMMENTS - NONE - No emailed comments

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS

Town Manager Powers provided the following update:

- Complaints & OT hours worked with Public Works dept for recent snow event; she spoke of the types of inquiries on road conditions and the vehicle traffic problems encountered by Police dept; the Planning Board will review an addition to the Nuisance Ordinance with enforceable violation; Public Works will look into adding salt to the chat to treat specific trouble areas.
- All police are recertified & qualified; New hire – Racion Rouse.
- Promotions – Assistant Police Chief – Cody Fields & Assistant Fire Chief – Matt Millsaps
- Powell Bill 2020 allocation complete – Actual funds received \$26,164 vs FY21 budget \$22,500.
- 2021 GMC Tahoe for police department will be coming soon.
- OTH remodel is near completion; exercise equipment is ordered, delivery expected in late January.
- NTH property cleared of dead brush, locust; plans for extended 1 way parking; need stormwater & erosion permits; will be meeting with Watauga County Planning & Inspections Director.
- NTH foyer repairs complete.
- Wellhouses #2 & #4; repairs in process
- Tax collection update – 95% of taxes received to date.
- Details were provided on the issued violations/stop work order.

Tree Permits – 3	Projects – 0	Fence Permits – 0
Complaints – Many	Violation Letters – 1	
Stop Work Orders – 1	Real Estate Closings – 6 - Total 2020 - 61	

Greene – H2O Request – Lot 28, Windy Knob Trail – Mr. Greene is the owner of vacant Lot 28, Windy Knob Trail, however he lives in a house in Diamond Creek that is adjacent to this parcel. The well at his house has run dry, currently making it uninhabitable. Mr. Greene has requested to install a water tap on his vacant parcel and run a water line to connect to the Diamond Creek location, until a new well/solution can be figured out. He understands this is an unusual request, as he does not want to be annexed into the Town, but would pay for the water tap fee, monthly usage, and other expenses.

Manager Powers has reviewed the Town’s Ordinances and states the Town Council can agree to this request. Discussion occurred among Town Council & Town Attorney Angle about legal issues, setting precedent, costs & benefits. Town Council agreed this should be a temporary connection, and does not bind the Town to any future requests by other citizens for the same situation.

Mayor Fontaine made motion to allow a temporary water tap to be installed at the costs of \$2,000 + any extra expense for a period of 6 months, renewable for an additional 6 months if requested by the owner

and upon approval by the Town Council. This agreement will expire completely at 12 months and the water tap locked by the Town. Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed. Attorney Angle to write a contract between the Town and Mr. Greene.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board of Adjustment – No meeting

Planning Board – No meeting

Public Works – No meeting

Public Safety Committee – No meeting

Parks & Recreation Committee – No meeting

TDA – No meeting

ABC Board – November & December minutes

Tree Committee – No meeting

Public Safety Department

Police Report

Fire Report – *Brief dialogue occurred about a recent structure fire within the Town.*

Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Bonomo commented on how vitally important the Public Works/Public Safety crew are to the Town, especially considering the range of activities required at various times. They plow snow, clear roads of fallen trees, and are members of the Volunteer FD. Without their commitment, especially during the holiday season and recent weather events the Town would be worse off. It was suggested a bonus should be given as gratitude for their recent work.

Member Bonomo made a motion to award a \$100 bonus to staff who were called in on Christmas/New Year's holiday to assist with weather conditions. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed.

Mayor Fontaine commented about the ways the NCDOT will make up the revenue shortfall due to less gasoline tax being collected during the COVID19 pandemic.

CLOSED SESSION

Member Bonomo made a motion to enter into Closed Session at 6:54pm, pursuant to NC G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) for Attorney-Client Privilege. Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed.

General Account:


Town Council members present In-Person included: Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Member Bonomo. Members Sasse & Williams participated remotely; Town Manager Powers, Town Attorney Angle was present, and Town Clerk Gropp took minutes.

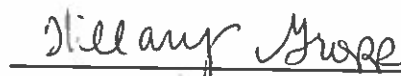
Discussion occurred about litigation. No action taken.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to leave Closed Session at 7:09pm. Member Bonomo seconded the motion. All members agreed.

ADJOURN

Member Bonomo made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. All members agreed. The meeting adjourned at 7:10pm.


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

