

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 12, 2019
5:30pm**

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Kay Ehlinger and David Ehmig; A quorum was met. Also, present were Town Attorney Rob Angle, Town Manager Debbie Powers; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

PRAYER/INVOCATION

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert gave the Prayer/Invocation for tonight's meeting

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:31pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Ehmig made a motion to adopt the Agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

ABC AUDIT REPORT – Sara Brewer, High Country ABC Board

Sara Brewer, ABC Manager provided the ABC Audit Report to the Town of Seven Devils. The fiscal year ended 06/30/2019 with Gross Sales of \$3,649,579 and \$861,849 paid in taxes to the State. In 2019, the ABC Board distributed a total of \$300,000 with \$100,000 to each town of Banner Elk, Seven Devils & Sugar Mountain. Since the inception of the HC ABC Board in 1998, the total given is \$4,572,502.

12.74% of profits were expended for law enforcement and alcohol education in FY2019. Sara Brewer spoke of new ordering for special items and it's been a positive, allowing a case to be sold in parts to the requestor and on shelf in the store.

TOWN COUNCIL VACANT SEAT

Member Bailey relocated out of Town limits and submitted her resignation to the Town Council, effective October 25, 2019.

Mayor Fontaine discussed and recommended appointing Wayne Bonomo to the vacant seat to complete the remainder of the term until elections in 2021.

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made the motion to appoint Wayne Bonomo; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

The Oath of Office was given to Wayne Bonomo; he took his seat on the dais.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – October 8, 2019

Member Ehmig made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.


OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

9) A. ANNEXATION – CAIRNS – Grandview Restaurant

(i) Petition for Annexation - Received by Debra B. Cairns, 10575 Hwy. 105 South, Banner Elk, NC

(ii) Resolution #2019-09



Resolution #2019-09

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CLERK TO INVESTIGATE
A PETITION RECEIVED UNDER G.S. 160A-58.1**


WHEREAS, a petition requesting annexation of an area described in said petition was received on October 17, 2019 by Debra B. Cairns; and

WHEREAS, G.S. 160A-58.2 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 12th day of November, 2019. -


Larry Fontaine, Mayor

ATTEST:


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk



Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve Resolution #2019-09; Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

B. APPROVE BOARD/COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following is a list of Board & Committee Appointments for 2020 with term details.

<p>RECAP of Board Terms & Submitted Board Applications, Effective 1/1/2020</p> <p>Board of Adjustment has three (3) expiring terms & two (2) vacant seats 3-year term Jack Byrnes – Reappointment - 1/1/2023 Frank Sell – Reappointment – 1/1/2023 Faye Brock – New Appointment – Vacant 1/1/2022 Bert Valery – New Appointment – Alternate 1/1/2023 John Wells IV – New Appointment - Vacant - Alternate 1/1/2022</p> <p>Planning Board has two (2) expiring terms & one (1) vacant seat 2-year term George Ehlinger – Reappointment 1/1/2022 Bert Valery – New Appointment – 1/1/2022 John Wells IV – New Appointment – Vacant – 1/1/2022</p> <p>Parks & Recreation Committee has one (1) expiring term 3-year term Anne Fontaine – Reappointment – 1/1/2023</p> <p>Tourism Development Authority has one (1) expiring term 2-year term Tom Gidley – Reappointment – 1/1/2022</p>
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Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve all Board & Committee Appointments;
Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

C. CHRISTMAS BONUS REQUEST

Manager Powers requests the Town Council grant a Christmas bonus to all employees;
\$400.00 for ongoing employees and \$100.00 for employees with less than 1-year
employment. The total is \$5,100.00 and included in the budget.

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

D. WATAUGA COUNTY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION – HYPER REACH

Watauga County has changed the emergency notification provider to Hyper Reach, from
Code Red Alert. A press release will be posted to the Town’s website and the Echo
newsletter. Residents can have alerts sent to a cellphone upon registering. All landlines are
automatically converted. ~CLOSED~

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Leigh Sasse spoke on behalf of her brother, Gregg Jones, **389 Moonlight Trail**, stated the lower fire rating at his location caused an increase with insurance costs. This new fire rating has affected the upper portion of the Town. She inquired if the Town is trying to solve this issue.

Town Council replied that Fire Chief Powell continues to work with the State Fire Marshal to resolve this. The Town, Public Works and Fire Department have researched the installation of fire hydrants, however the infrastructure needed is cost prohibitive.

Kay Lambert, **430 Wildcat Rocks Road** reported the recent Operation Medicine Cabinet was held on October 26th. The take back was much lower, due to lack of notification in the media and the availability of Lazarus boxes year-round. She thanked the Police volunteers who participated in the event at Foscoe Fire Department.

Anne Fontaine, **127 West Rocky Top**, announced the Lite Up The Nite to be held on Friday, December 6th; bring a covered dish and can food item for donation. Send RSVP to the Town Clerk. She also announced a survey will be sent to citizens for feedback on ideas of how to repurpose the Old Town Hall building.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

Watauga County will display a custom quilt at the new Community Rec Center; the Town's logo will be included on the quilt.

Avery County DOT had a meeting on October 2nd about treating roads in the winter.

Election recap: The candidate forum was held on October 9th; the election results will be certified by November 15th. The unofficial results are as follows: Larry Fontaine – 76, Kay Ehlinger – 59, Jeff Williams – 40, Wayne Bonomo – 39, Write-In – 10

Jewel McKinney was introduced, as she has been hired as the Parks & Rec Program Technician

Fire Chief Powell obtained a grant to install new fire alarm systems at new Town Hall and OTH.

Town Clerk Gropp completed week#4 of the Clerk's Institute at UNC SOG.

A committee is being formed to work on the repurposing of OTH. A survey will be distributed.

The Hogan's, 747 Thorncliff Drive, gifted the Town a plaque to commemorate the ribbon cutting of new Town Hall and to be displayed at the entry. TDA also contributed to the cost.

Town Hall will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 28th & 29th for Thanksgiving.

The Christmas luncheon for staff is Wednesday, December 4th at 11:30am at Makoto's.

Lite Up The Nite will take place on Friday, December 6th at 6:00pm at OTH. The Town will provide turkey & ham. Attendees will bring a covered dish & canned good donations will be accepted.

Updates for: Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints, Violations, Stop Work Orders & Real Estate Closings.

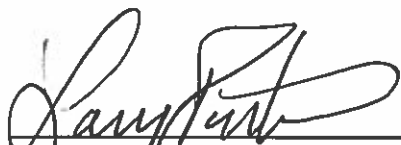
COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Board of Adjustment - No meeting**
- Planning Board - No meeting**
- Public Works - No meeting**
- Public Safety Committee - No meeting**
- Parks & Recreation Committee - No meeting**
- TDA - October minutes**
- ABC Board - September minutes**
- Tree Committee - No meeting**
- Public Safety Department**
 - Police Report**
 - Fire Report**
- Financial Report**

COUNCIL COMMENTS

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Mayor Pro Tem Lambert seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.



Larry Fontaine, Mayor



Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

