

**TOWN OF SEVEN DEVILS
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
September 10, 2019
5:30pm**

The Seven Devils Town Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Town Hall. Present were Mayor Larry Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Brad Lambert, Members Tina Bailey, Kay Ehlinger and David Ehmig. Also present were Town Manager Debbie Powers; the minutes were recorded by Town Clerk Hillary Gropp.

INVOCATION

Mayor Fontaine gave the Invocation for tonight's meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fontaine called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Council members and citizens recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPT AGENDA

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adopt the agenda; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

ADOPT MINUTES OF TOWN COUNCIL MEETING on August 13, 2019

Member Ehlinger made a motion to approve and adopt the minutes; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Anne Fontaine – 127 West Rocky Top- Commented on the success of the 40th Anniversary Celebration and the efforts of the Town Staff in accomplishing this wonderful event.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Manager Powers provided the following update:

- Sarah Manning is the ABC Board Chairperson this year.
- Town Hall will be closed during moving days – Sept 17th & 18th
- Parks & Rec Tech position vacant – job description will be posted on Town's website.
- PARTF Grant – 7D was not awarded a grant. – Funded 14/56 requests - 25% of applicants.
- 40th Anniversary Recap – Sponsored by TDA – Attendance approximately as follows: Ribbon Cutting = 80, BBQ Lunch = 150, Music by the Lake = 300
- Hillary Gropp attended week #3 of Clerk's Institute at UNC SOG.
- Requests for questions/topics for Candidate Forum in September H20 billing.
- New redesigned ECHO newsletter is now available.

Updates for: Tree Permits, Projects, Fence Permits, Complaints & Real Estate Closings.

OLD BUSINESS

A. NEW TOWN HALL UPDATE

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to adopt the Closed Session Minutes of April 9, 2019; Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. These minutes are now released as public record. ~CLOSED~

NEW BUSINESS

A. TDA Board Vacancy

(i) Resolution #2019-07



RESOLUTION #2019-07

**UPDATE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE
TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, The Town of Seven Devils was authorized to levy a room occupancy tax for the promotion of travel and tourism; and

WHEREAS, the 2002 NC General Assembly Session Laws grant the Town of Seven Devils the Authority to levy occupancy taxes, administered by a Council appointed Tourism Development Authority,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Seven Devils Town Council does hereby instruct the Tourism Development Authority to advertise and promote travel in the Town of Seven Devils.

The Authority shall consist of a minimum of three (3) members appointed to two-year terms by the Town Council and may appoint an alternate Member. The Tourism Development Authority will appoint a chairperson and a vice-chairperson from among the membership.

All Members and alternates must be individuals who are active in the promotion of travel and tourism in Seven Devils.

The Authority shall expend all occupancy taxes remitted to the Town, less three percent administrative charges, in the following manner: Two thirds of the funds remitted shall promote travel and tourism in Seven Devils and one third of the funds remitted shall finance tourist related capital projects in the Town.

The Authority shall determine its meeting dates and time and shall meet at least monthly. All Authority meetings are to be held in accordance with the Open Meetings Law. The Authority shall review monthly financials reports and shall submit annual reports of revenues and expenditures to the Town Council. The Seven Devils Finance Officer shall serve as an ex-officio Member of the Authority.

POWERS AND DUTIES


The Authority shall promote travel and tourism in the Town; sponsor tourist related events and activities in the Town, and finance tourist related capital projects in the Town.

The Authority shall advertise and market Seven Devils and local events and attractions, publish and distribute promotional materials, conduct market research and engage in other activities designed to attract tourists and travelers to the Town.

The Authority shall make tourism-related expenditures that are designed to increase the use of lodging facilities, recreational facilities and business establishments in the Town.

ADOPTED, this 10th day of September 2019.

ATTEST:


Larry Fontaine, Mayor


Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk



Member Bailey made a motion to approve Resolution#2019-07; Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

(ii) Applications

Richard Blonshine – *Appointed to fill vacant seat – Term expires 1/1/2021*

Leigh Sasse – *New member – Term expires 1/1/2022*

Member Ehlinger made a motion to accept the above applications & appointments to the TDA Board; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

B. Purchase of old Police Weapons

Police Chief Harris made a formal written request to the Town Council to remove old firearms from service and surplus them; his request includes allowing the Officers to purchase their firearm. After discussion among Town Council it was agreed the purchase price for a firearm is \$15.00. Member Ehmig made a motion to approve the purchase price of firearms by Police Officers at \$15.00; Member Ehlinger seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

C. New Police Officer

Police Officer Adam Renfro was introduced to the Town Council. A ceremonial Oath of Office was given; the official Oath of Office was administered on Monday, September 16, 2019 at Town Hall. ~CLOSED~

D. Avery County MOA/Involuntary Commitments

Mayor Pro Tem Lambert made a motion to approve a “Memorandum of Transportation Agreement for Involuntary Commitments” with Avery County; Member Ehmig seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. ~CLOSED~

E. Foreclosure Update

Manager Powers provided an update on two properties that have recently been foreclosed on due to past due taxes. ~CLOSED~

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Board of Adjustment – No meeting
- Planning Board – No meeting
- Public Works – No meeting
- Public Safety Committee – August minutes
- Parks & Recreation Committee – No meeting
- TDA – August minutes
- ABC Board – July minutes
- Tree Committee – No meeting
- Public Safety Department
 - Police Report
 - Fire Report
- Financial Report

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Member Ehmig spoke of the milestone of tonight’s meeting, with it being the last time a Town Council meeting will be held at the current Town Hall. Next month begins a new era as the Town Council meeting will occur at the new Town Hall.

Mayor Fontaine, Mayor Pro Tem Lambert, Member Ehlinger agreed achievement of the goals of the Recreational Needs Survey is important as future uses are discussed about the current Town Hall.

ADJOURN

Member Ehlinger made a motion to adjourn; Member Bailey seconded the motion. The members agreed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:01pm.



Larry Fontaine, Mayor



Hillary Gropp, Town Clerk

