

Town of Mars Hill
Mars Hill, North Carolina

MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Monthly Meeting

June 6, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, Robert W. (Bob) Zink; (Nicholas Honeycutt, Absent)

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Freeman, The News Record and Sentinel; Katie Mason; Jon & Dianne VanHoff; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Joanne Rice; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Chandler with the first item of business being approval of the May, 2011, Minutes. With no changes or discussion, a motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Larry Davis, to approve the May Minutes as presented. The motion received unanimous approval.

With no changes, a motion was made by Bob Zink to accept the Agenda as presented. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

Darhyl Boone reported to the Board that the Planning and Zoning Board have continued to work on Appearance Standards and Design for the C-1 and C-2 (Central Business and Highway Business) Zoning Districts. The design criteria are complete and includes criteria for multi-family dwellings of four units or more. The Planning & Zoning Board has been working with Ron Hancock, Division of Community Assistance, and has reviewed standards of other towns including Blowing Rock and Maggie Valley. The design criteria includes exterior walls, roof lines, etc. The report is preliminary, a copy of which will be forwarded to the Board of Aldermen for review. The Board will be given time to review and then, in a couple of months, will meet with Ron Hancock and the Planning & Zoning Board for further review and discussion. The Planning & Zoning Board has also started to work on regulations governing adult businesses. They will confer with other towns to see how they regulate such businesses.

There was discussion concerning a volunteer group to be organized to work on a book of history of the Town of Mars Hill. Darhyl has had one person to approach him and volunteer to help. He has also collected some photos of Mars Hill that older residents have donated. Darhyl suggested that someone be found that would have the time to devote as well as good contact with Mars Hill College (since they have completed their own book of history). Mayor Chandler stated that he has spoken to several older residents who are in favor and will share their memories. It was suggested that someone like Richard Dillingham could do interviews since he is familiar with the type of questions to ask. The general consensus was to advertise in the Newsletter for pictures. Bob Zink stated that three or four people would be sufficient to undertake this project and begin contacting residents.

Darhyl reported that Lynn Bowles, Madison County Parks and Recreation, has asked if the Town would allow an adult softball league to use the field at the Recreation Park since it's the only one in the county

that will accommodate this type of play. There was discussion with regards to what fee would be necessary to cover the additional lighting and maintenance costs. This league would begin after the youth league is finished in mid-July. It would probably be available for the adults to use a couple of nights each week this season and more next season. The only issue is the possibility of alcohol use which is prohibited at the Park. The Board did not have a problem with this use if Darhyl can work out the issues of maintenance, alcohol use, etc. Darhyl will meet with Lynn Bowles for discussion.

Darhyl reported that there are currently two vacancies on the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Steven McConnell has moved out of state and Gordon Randolph, now retired, has requested his position be filled. Darhyl has some names that were submitted when the Town advertised for volunteers interested in serving on advisory boards and will e-mail them to the Board of Aldermen. The need is for one representative in-town and one in the extraterritorial jurisdiction.

Under Old Business Darhyl reported that the Weaverville Interconnection Project should be completed this month and as soon as the USDA received word from the federal government, funds will be available for the Water Line Replacement Project which is ready to begin.

Under New Business, the Budget Hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, June 28 at 7:00 p.m. Alderman Bob Zink stated that in past years since two meetings are held in June, there is no meeting in July. It was the consensus that it will not be necessary to have the July monthly meeting and the next Board meeting will be in August.

Darhyl reported that the Town has suffered some damage from the recent hail storm. Insurance adjusters have found damage to both the Fire Department buildings and possibly the Town Hall and the Recreation Park. At this time the extent of the damage has not been determined.

Being no Public Comment, Bob Zink made a motion to go into Closed Session for discussion of a personnel matter. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second from Larry Davis, to return to Open Session. The motion received unanimous approval. A motion was made by Stuart Jolley, second by Larry Davis, and unanimous acceptance to adjourn .
