

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
Monthly Meeting

November 7, 2011
7:00 p.m.

Town Hall

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Anna Freeman, The News Record and Sentinel; Mary Wilson; Patricia L. Wilson; Jim Roberts; Phyllis Neshem; Larry Burda; Katie Mason; Harriet Barnette Ray, Patricia Barnette Gatling & another Barnette Heir; Maggie R. Howard; Cindy W. Rice; Willa & David Wyatt; Bruce Frost; Champ Rice Heir; Jason Gilliland, Land Design; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager; Joanne Rice

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Chandler with the first item being approval of the October, 2011, Minutes. Alderman Jolley noted one correction to the Minutes on the second page. The vote on re-zoning of property from R2 to C1 was recorded as unanimous when, correctly, there was one vote against. The motion passed on a 4 yes and 1 no vote.

A motion was made by Stuart Jolley to approve the October, 2011, Minutes with the one correction. The motion received a second from Larry Davis and unanimously passed.

Under Agenda Modification/Acceptance, Darhyl requested that the Financial Statement for the quarter ended September 30, 2011, be added under New Business. The Statement was not ready when the information was compiled for the Board and, therefore, was not placed on the Agenda. A motion was made by Bob Zink, second by Stuart Jolley, to approved the Agenda with one modification. The motion was unanimously approved.

The next item on the Agenda was a Public Hearing for the purpose or rezoning designated property from Industrial to R-1 and C-2. Darhyl explained that in the late 1960's or early 1970's, property near exit 11 on Interstate 26 was zoned to allow an industrial site. Following the construction of I-26 and the interchange, the property was no longer accessible and is not suitable for this purpose. A recommendation has been made by the Planning & Zoning Board for this property to be rezoned to R-1 (Rural Residential and Agricultural) and C-2 (Highway Business) to be consistent with the adjoining properties. Darhyl reported that the Griffins who reside on this property along Carl Eller Road (NC 213) would like their portion to remain R-1. The Barnette heirs whose property is across from TJ's Mountain Market would like their parcel to be C-2. David Wyatt asked for clarification that the property zone R-1 could be used for agricultural purposes and was assured that he would be able to use the property as he had in the past. After some discussion, a motion was made by Bob Zink to rezone the Industrial property at this location to R-1 except for the Barnette parcel to be zoned C-2. The motion received a second from Stuart Jolley and was unanimously approved.

The next item of business was a Public Hearing on a Petition to Annex 7.34 acres off Crossroads Parkway (near Madison Manor) by owner, Thomas Clayton Willis. Darhyl explained that approximately 13 acres joining this property had previously been annexed. Town services can be provided and a review of this request showed everything in order. There was brief discussion clarifying the exact location of the property followed by a motion by Stuart Jolley, second from Larry Davis, to approved this Petition for Annexation on the 7.34 acre tract owned by Thomas Clayton Willis. The motion received unanimous approval.

The Town has been requested by Land of Sky Regional Council to appoint a representative to the Steering Committee of Land of Sky Regional Bike Plan for 2011 – 2013. They are asking for a representative from the Towns as well as the County. Darhyl has spoken with Scott Pearson, who is a member of the Biology Department at Mars Hill College and an avid biker, and he has agreed to serve on this Committee. A motion was made by Mayor Chandler to appoint Mr. Pearson to the Steering Committee. Motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and was unanimously approved.

The next item on the Agenda was a proposed Video Sweepstakes Ordinance. Darhyl explained that the Town needs this Ordinance on file to control this type activity. He briefly explained that the video sweepstakes currently legal in the state would be allowed in Town by permit only. The permit process will be worked out and will likely be handled through the Police Department. He responded to a question from Maggie Howard that we have not, to date, been approached for placement of this type. A motion was made by Bob Zink, second by Stuart Jolley, to approve the Video Sweepstakes Ordinance. The motion received unanimous approval.

Next was a proposed Concealed Weapons Ordinance. The purpose of this Ordinance is to control concealed weapons on any Town owned property which will include the Town Hall, Recreation Park, etc. A notice will be posted at each location notifying the public of this ban on concealed weapons. After some discussion, a motion was made by Nick Honeycutt, second by Larry Davis, to approve the Concealed Weapons Ordinance. The motion unanimously passed.

Under Old Business Darhyl gave an update on the solar panels for the library. He explained that the grant was approved previously and the bids for these panels will be opened on Monday, November 14. Hopefully the work will begin in December with the Town's staff doing most of the installation and French Broad Electric will assist with the wiring. This solar energy will probably off-set approximately 50% of the energy costs for the library. In addition, a computer system will be set up for the public to see how these panels produce energy which will be an invaluable educational tool.

Under New Business, Nick Honeycutt asked for a definition of 'manufactured home.' Darhyl responded with the information provided by the Town's Zoning Ordinance and will get Nick a copy.

The Financial Statement for quarter ended September 30, 2011, was presented to the Board. Darhyl gave a brief overview of all funds. With no questions or comments, a motion was made by Stuart Jolley to approve the Financial Statement as presented. The motion received a second from Nick Honeycutt and was unanimously accepted.

Under Public Comment, Bruce Frost representing the residents of the Mars Hill Retirement Center voiced their concerns with regards to the sidewalks on South Main Street as well as a recycling program for the residents. Darhyl responded that he would need some direction as to the problems with the sidewalks and would discuss the recycling questions with the Administrator of the Retirement Center.

Mr. Frost further stated that the residents are currently putting their concerns in writing for presentation to the Town.

With no further comments, a motion was made by Bob Zink, second from Stuart Jolley, and unanimous approval to adjourn.
