



# Town of Mars Hill

## MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

John L. Chandler  
*Mayor*  
Nicholas A. Honeycutt  
*Vice-Mayor*  
Robert W. Zink  
*Treasurer*  
Stuart L. Jolley  
*Clerk*  
Larry H. Davis  
*Secretary*

### MINUTES REGULAR MEETING Mars Hill Town Hall – Conference Room March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

The Town of Mars Hill Mayor and Board of Aldermen met in regular session on Monday, March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. in the Mars Hill Town Hall.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor John Chandler; Aldermen Larry Davis, Stuart Jolley, and Robert W. (Bob) Zink. Alderman Nicholas Honeycutt was absent.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Nathan R. Bennett, Town Manager, Jamie Stokes, Town Attorney, Nathan Waldrup, Fire Chief, and Lt. Chad Wilson, Police

#### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mayor John Chandler. Mayor Chandler welcomed those in attendance.

#### Approval of the Agenda

Mayor Chandler asked the Board to review the proposed agenda for approval. Upon review of the agenda, Mayor Chandler called for a motion. **Alderman Bob Zink made a motion the agenda be approved as presented.** Alderman Larry Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the agenda was approved unanimously. (Attachment A)

#### Approval of Minutes

Mayor Chandler then asked the Board to review the minutes of the regular meeting held on February 1, 2021. There being no modifications to the minutes, **Alderman Davis made a motion that the minutes for February 1, 2021 be approved as presented by management.** Alderman Zink seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the minutes were approved unanimously.

#### DEPARTMENT REPORT – Fire Department

Mayor Chandler then recognized Fire Chief Nathan Waldrup to present a report on operations and planning for the Fire Department. Chief Waldrup presented the activity report for February highlighting the statistics on the various calls for the month (Attachment B). He advised that call volume has returned to pre-COVID levels, averaging at or above 100 calls per month. Chief Waldrup then reported that he and Deputy Chief Bennie Gaddy had identified items to consider for improvements over the next five years for the Department. He identified an immediate need, this fiscal year or next, of purchasing a

replacement quick response vehicle for Deputy Chief Gaddy. The current Jeep Patriot is beginning to require enhanced maintenance and it was discussed last year by the Board as the next vehicle to be replaced. The next need he discussed was consideration of adding additional full-time shift personnel over the next two years or so. Finally, he advised that over the next 3 to 5 years that the addition of substations in the Grapevine and Middle Fork communities would greatly enhance response time and provide homeowners the benefit of potentially lower insurance premiums. This is a long-term view and would be a substantial investment in the fire district areas outside of the city limits. Board members thanked Chief Waldrup for his presentation. Alderman Zink said he appreciated the hard work of the fire department and that they do an exceptional job, a sentiment shared by all Board members.

### **Town Manager Report – Nathan Bennett, Town Manager**

Mayor Chandler then recognized Mr. Bennett to provide the Town Manager Report.

### **COVID-19 Response**

Mr. Bennett provided the Board an update on the continuing Town response to the coronavirus and COVID-19 situation. The Town continues to be under the state and locally designated state of emergency in response to COVID-19. He advised he participated in the county COVID team meeting today and that it was reported the county positivity rate has improved greatly since the spike experienced from the holiday season down to near 5%. Also, the Madison County Health Department is administering the vaccine on a regular basis as supplies have improved and the expectation is for even better supply with the recent news of the additional approval of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Mr. Bennett advised that next week the remaining tiers of essential workers will become eligible for the vaccine and that he has provided a list of all town employees who have expressed an interest in obtaining the vaccine to the health department who will contact the employee directly to schedule appointments to receive the vaccine. Officials at all levels of government and the healthcare community continue to advise to the community to wear face masks, wait six feet apart from others, and wash hands often with soap and water or sanitizer and to consider receiving the vaccine when it is made available.

### **Racial Equality & Ethnic Diversity Conversations**

Mr. Bennett reminded the Board that one of the items identified in their February resolution on racial equality was for the Town to engage in community conversations on the subject. Mr. Bennett advised that he has met with those with the Madison Racial Justice Coalition and the MHU faculty, staff and students that were engaging with the Town on how to proceed with these initiatives. The group has contacted a professional facilitator, who has also taught sociology at MHU, who is willing to guide a community round-table discussion on racial equality and diversity in the Mars Hill community. This round-table would feature Board members, town leadership including the manager and police chief, together with students and those in the community to have an open dialogue on the subject. While details of the event are being finalized, the event will take place at Broyhill Chapel Fellowship Hall on April 15, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Bennett asked Board members to place this on their calendars and he will provide additional detailed information when it is available. MHU students involved in the planning of this event were present at the meeting: Sam Thomas, Amber Vernon, and JL Fleming.

### General Update

Mr. Bennett advised that the contractor has completed the Carl Eller pump station work as part of the wastewater system improvements project funded by the EDA and Golden Leaf grants. He advised he will be working with Land of Sky planners to finalize the completion of all the reports in order to close these grants. Mr. Bennett then advised the Board that he has prepared and released a request for proposals (RFP) for auditing services for the Town. The RFP went out to 10 firms in western North Carolina that provide services to other towns throughout the region. Responses are due by March 26, 2021. Management will bring a recommendation to the Board at the April meeting. Mr. Bennett then advised that he has completed the RFP for purchase of a new rear-loading garbage truck to replace the current vehicle that has met its useful service life. This new vehicle will be purchased using grant funds approved by the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Air Quality. Mr. Bennett said he expected to release the RFP this week with responses due in by mid-March. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the radar speed signs discussed at previous meeting were delivered to the Town last week. The company provided training to town staff on the installation, programming, and maintenance of the systems. These traffic control devices will be deployed on North Main Street and other areas of town to address issue with traffic speed. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that he was notified by NCDOT last week that bids were opened, and a contract awarded by NCDOT to NHM Construction to complete the Crossroads Parkway extension project. The project is expected to begin this spring with a one-year construction period. Mr. Bennett then updated the Board on the hiring process for the chief of police position. Interviews were completed and the interview team recommends current MHPD Captain Jon Clark to be named the permanent chief of police. Mr. Bennett provided general updates on other miscellaneous activities including the authorization received late last week to proceed with the process to replace the trash truck utilizing state grant funds.

### Appointment of Chief of Police

Mayor Chandler then moved to address the appointment of a new chief of police. Mr. Bennett summarized the hiring process that had been followed by the Town. Mr. Bennett advised the Board that the interview team consisted of Mayor Chandler and Aldermen Davis and Jolley. Mr. Bennett advised that the recommendation of the interview team is to appoint current MHPD Captain Jonathan Clark as permanent chief of police. Upon completion of discussion, Mayor Chandler called for a motion.

**Alderman Davis made a motion to appoint Captain Jonathan Clark to the position of Chief of Police for the Town of Mars Hill effective immediately.** Alderman Jolley seconded the motion.

Upon a call for a vote by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously.

### Old Business

Mayor Chandler then moved to address old business.

### **RESOLUTION – Award of Service Side Arm Upon Retirement (N.C.G.S. 20-187.2)**

Mayor Chandler recognized Mr. Bennett to provide information on this item. Mr. Bennett advised that N.C.G.S. 20-187.2 provides that the governing body of a law enforcement agency may, in its discretion, award to a retiring member of that agency the service side arm at a price determined by the governing body. Mr. Bennett advised that Chief Michael Garrison has requested the Board's consideration in this regard and a resolution to authorize this award has been prepared. Upon completion of discussion,

Mayor Chandler called for a motion. **Alderman Jolley made a motion to approve the resolution entitled “RESOLUTION – AWARD OF SERVICE SIDE ARM TO MICHAEL L. GARRISON, CHIEF OF POLICE UPON HIS RETIREMENT (N.C.G.S. 20-187.2).** Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote by the Mayor, the motion was approved unanimously. *(Attachment C)*

**Wolf Laurel Property Proposal**

Mayor Chandler recognized Town Attorney Jamie Stokes to provide information on the proposal to purchase an area approximately 100 feet by 400 feet of Town property near the ski resort to facilitate the improvements to an existing cellular tower. Ms. Stokes advised that there was some miscommunication and that the wrong property description was used in legal advertisement published for upset bids for the proposed sale of the property. Ms. Stokes advised that a survey specific to this area will need to be completed and that the individual making purchase offer will obtain and pay for said survey. Ms. Stokes advised that she would bring this information back to the Board when received and republish the legal notice for the upset bid process with the correct description at that time. No additional action needed by the Board at this time.

**New Business**

Mayor Chandler then moved to address new business. There was no new business.

**Public Comment**

The Mayor then moved to public comment. Mr. Jim Klumpp representing the Wolf Laurel Roads Maintenance and Security Homeowners Association was recognized. He advised that his organization is the successor to the Bald Mountain Development Corporation through a 2012 deed. Mr. Klumpp advised they value the property and are happy to conduct conversations pertaining to the proposed property sale discussed previously. There were no other public comments.


**Closed Session (Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11)**

There was no closed session.

**Adjourn**

There being no further business before the Board, Mayor Chandler called for a motion to adjourn. Alderman Zink made a motion to adjourn. Alderman Davis seconded the motion. Upon a call for a vote on the motion by the Mayor, the motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Approved and authenticated this the 5<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.

  
John L. Chandler, Mayor

ATTEST:



Nathan R. Bennett,  
Town Manager





# Town of Mars Hill

MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN

John L. Chandler  
*Mayor*  
Nicholas A. Honeycutt  
*Vice-Mayor*  
Robert W. Zink  
*Treasurer*  
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## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING

*Mars Hill Town Hall Conference Room*

*March 1, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.*

1. Call to Order – *Mayor John L. Chandler*
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Approval of Minutes: February 1, 2021
4. **DEPARTMENT REPORT** – Fire Department – Nathan Waldrup, Fire Chief
5. Town Manager Report – *Nathan Bennett, Town Manager*
  - a. COVID-19 Response Update
  - b. Racial Equality & Ethnic Diversity Conversations
  - c. General Update
6. Appointment of Chief of Police
7. Old Business
  - a. **RESOLUTION** – Award of Service Side Arm Upon Retirement (N.C.G.S. 20-187.2)
  - b. Wolf Laurel Property Proposal
8. New Business
9. Public Comment
10. Closed Session (*Pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 – if needed*)
11. Adjourn

**Mars Hill Town Hall**

280 North Main Street • P.O. Box 368

Mars Hill, North Carolina 28754

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# ATTACHMENT B

## MHFD February 2021 Activity Report

Call Type	Number of Calls
Building Fire	0
Chimney Fire	0
Wildfire	3
Vehicle Fire	1
Medical	61
MVA w/o injuries	2
MVA with injuries	11
Land Search	0
Trench Rescue	0
Hazardous Condition	0
Tree Down	0
CO Detector	1
Service Call	5
Person in distress	1
Assist Invalid	2
Good Intent Dispatched and cancelled	0
No incident found	7
Authorized burning	4
Severe Weather	0
False Alarms	0
<b>Total Calls</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Training Hours</b>	<b>119</b>
Fire Prevention activities	0
Fire inspections	1
<b>Overlapping incidents</b>	<b>9</b>



# 5 year plan for MHFD

## **This budget cycle**

Purchase replacement for Chief Gaddy's vehicle

## **1-2 years**

add 2 more personnel on shift

## **3-5 years**

Add substations in the Grapevine and Middle Fork communities



ATTACHMENT C

# Town of Mars Hill

## RESOLUTION

### AWARD OF SERVICE SIDE ARM TO MICHAEL L. GARRISON, CHIEF OF POLICE, UPON HIS RETIREMENT (N.C.G.S. 20-187.2)

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Michael L. Garrison, was appointed Chief of Police for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina on November 23, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Garrison has dedicated himself to the highest standards of professionalism and excellence as Chief of the Mars Hill Police Department; and

**WHEREAS**, Chief Garrison retired from law enforcement service to the Town of Mars Hill effective January 31, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, N.C. General Statute 20-187.2 provides that the governing body of a law-enforcement agency may, in its discretion, award to a retiring member, upon request, the service side arm of such retiring member, at a price determined by such governing body.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina,  
**IT IS ORDERED:**

- Section 1.** Pursuant to N.C. General Statute 20-187.2, this Board awards to Chief Michael Garrison the service side arm worn in service to the Town of Mars Hill at no cost, subject to all appropriate federal and state regulations for such ownership transfer.
- Section 2.** The Mayor, Town Manager, and any other necessary Town officers are authorized to take such actions as may be required to affect the provisions of this Resolution.
- Section 3.** This Proclamation shall be effective immediately.

**ADOPTED** this 1<sup>st</sup> day of March 2021, by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Town of Mars Hill, North Carolina.

  
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JOHN L. CHANDLER, Mayor

ATTEST:

  
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STUART L. JOLLEY, Clerk

