

Town of Mars Hill
MAYOR & BOARD OF ALDERMEN
 Monthly Meeting

March 2, 2015
 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: Jon VanHoff; Lee Hoffman; Bruce Murray; David Lewis, Chief of Police; Larry Leake, Town Attorney; Darhyl Boone, Town Manager

Mayor Chandler called the meeting to order with the first item of business being approval of the February, 2015, Minutes which were approved unanimously on a motion by Nick Honeycutt and second by Stuart Jolley.

There was no Agenda Modification and Stuart Jolley made a motion that the Agenda be approved as presented. The motion received a second from Larry Davis and was unanimously accepted.

Bruce Murray, representing Blue Ridge Homes, addressed the Mayor and Aldermen explaining that Blue Ridge Homes is working with another non-profit for a possible merger. Since the facilities were financed through the Town, in order to acquire low interest financing, the Town would have to approve any long-term lease that Blue Ridge Homes is proposing. There were questions by the Mayor and Aldermen and discussion concerning the proposal. Larry Leake explained the history of the project and further explained that any lease over ten (10) years will require a Public Hearing by the Mayor and Board in order that others could compete against the proposal. Bob Zink made a motion that a Public Hearing be scheduled and that Mr. Leake draft the Lease Agreement to be approved. Nick Honeycutt gave a second to the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Lee Hoffman representing the Hoffman Foundation addressed the Mayor and Aldermen about the idea of purchasing the Charles Smith property (Bailey Street), which joins the Richard L. Hoffman Foundation property in order to provide outdoor recreation for the entire County.

The Hoffman Foundation property consists of about 260 acres and the Smith property is about 88 acres. The Smith property would allow much easier access to the 260 acres. Mr. Hoffman explained that the idea is for the Hoffman Foundation and the Town to work together to raise the money for purchase of the Smith property at \$625,000.00. The Town would apply for a Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant for 50% of the purchase price and the Hoffman Foundation would raise the remaining 50%. Mr. Hoffman requested the Mayor and Aldermen's consideration to support the project by pursuing any public funds available and help financially support the seller's option to buy fee of \$7,500.00. Mr. Hoffman is requesting the Mayor and Board to consider supporting \$2,500.00 of the option fee. This earnest money would allow at least 15 months to work at raising the necessary funds for purchase. No formal action was taken.

Police Chief David Lewis presented a report on the 2014 Police Department activities. There was question and answer time and the Board expressed appreciation to Chief Lewis for the report.

There was discussion concerning making College Street a one-way street. There were concerns by the Mayor and Aldermen and no action was taken.

Being no Old Business, the next item on the Agenda was New Business. Darhyl explained that the Mayor and Aldermen need to approve an Agreement with the Board of Elections to conduct the next municipal election. A motion was made by Bob Zink, second by Stuart Jolley to approve the Agreement. Unanimous decision. The election in November will be conducted at the Town Library.

Under Public Comment, Bob Zink explained that several people has commented to him about the good job the men have done with snow removal on the Town streets.

With no further business, Bob Zink made a motion that the meeting be adjourned. The motion received a second by Larry Davis and was unanimously approved.


